Maine Farmer.

AGRICULTURE, MECHANIC ARTS, LITERATURE, NEWS, &c.

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EZEKIEL HOLMES, Editor.

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

Sheep or Dogs, Which?

It would seem that there could be but little question which should receive the most care and attention and protection in a civilized and agricultural country, the sheep or the dog. But it really appears that in some parts of the community that the dog is in the ascendant and the sheep of the least consideration. We do not wholly ignore the utility of the dog in the forest among the pioneers, where the wild animals are plenty, and some sort of protection is necessary. In such a case it is putting one evil against another. But in towns and cities the multiplicity of dogs becomes the main evil, equivalent to the wild animals in the other case, and are therefore nuisances to be abated. The census of dogs would be an interesting fact to be ascertained—the numbers now in the State—the amount of expense incurred to keep them, what portion of them are actually useful and what portion of them are useless, and what part of them are worse than useless. Facts of this nature put in contrast with the actual number of sheep, and the true estimate of their real value put side by side would show a mighty strong contrast. We wish our coming Legislature would direct something of the sort to be done, and while taking this *dog* census they would institute a strict inquiry into the number of sheep which have been killed by dogs within, say five years past, and their cash value.

Such an *expose* would give the true contrast between the value of the two species of animal property, and demonstrate beyond a doubt which of the two required special protection. If this could be done in every State in the nation, and the whole put into one table, the results would be astonishing. At present we know of but one State that has done anything like this, and that one is Ohio. Rhode Island did something of the kind. Its Legislature appropriated a sum of money to be paid the U. S. Marshal for taking some other statistics besides what the U. S. Government required. By this we see that Rhode Island has 32,600 sheep, and 6,845 dogs. But the number of sheep killed and wounded by dogs is not ascertained.

In Ohio we *find* by consulting the tables of their statistics on these subjects as collected and prepared by their Board of Agriculture, that there are, or were last year 3,442,859 sheep.—That the number of sheep killed by dogs amounted to 41,979, which were worth $77,170. That the number injured by dogs, but not killed amounted to 22,750, worth $25,288. This you will see will make the value of sheep killed and injured by dogs in this single State to be $102,458, a pretty large amount to be sacrificed for dogs.

We hardly know what would be the best course to take in order to give more protection to sheep against the canine race. Dogs may be oftentimes useful in their place. The trouble is to keep them in their place, and out of the sheep pasture.

There is another trouble. When a sheep is killed by dogs, nobody's dog does it, and this Mr. Nobody is a myth, or at any rate a very irresponsible personage. We hope, however, that this subject will engage the attention of the Legislature, and they will devote some efficient mode of protection for sheep against dogs.

Get the Sugar Bush in Order.

We have once or twice before this called attention to the making preparation for the manufacture of maple sugar here in Maine and everywhere else where the sugar maples grow. Our reasons for this were the following, viz: the diminution of the supply of sugar from the regions of the Lower Mississippi, and the probability that in order to increase the revenues, Congress would increase the tariff on foreign sugar. Both of these occurrences would enhance the price of sugar and molasses, and it would therefore be good policy to manufacture all we could at home.

The probability that Congress would increase the tariff has now become a fact. We see by the Congressional reports, that on the 23d ult., the following tariff was established by both Houses, viz.: On all teas 20 cents per pound; coffee of all kinds 5 cents per pound; on all sugars commonly called Muscovado, or brown sugars not advanced above No. 12 Dutch standard, by claying, testing, &c. &c., and on syrup of sugar and concentrated molasses, 2½ cents per pound. On sugars after being refined, when they are tinctured, colored, or in any other way adulterated, and on sugar candy 8 cents per pound; on molasses 6 cents per gallon.

For these reasons you will find that your sugar and molasses which have heretofore been had for reasonable prices, such as were within the reach of all, will be enhanced in cost, and of course the consumer will have to meet the whole and be subjected to all the increased cost and prices. It will therefore be an object for every farmer to begin to look over his sugar bush, and busy himself at leisure moments in putting things into a good train to make what sugar and molasses he may need for his own family's use, if no more. Every pound of domestic molasses and sugar manufactured will curtail the demand for the foreign so much at least, and of course help make the demand come within the supply.

The supply of maple sugar and molasses might be vastly increased in Northern New England if those who have the means would set themselves into the manufacture of them in earnest.

We think that the increased culture of Sorghum in the Western States, and the improved modes of extracting the *sweetening* from it, will, in the course of a year or two, enable them to supply us with a very good article of molasses and sugar from that source. Even in Maine the few experiments made with the culture of Sorghum and extracting molasses were very fair. If the price of cane sugar and molasses had not fallen pretty low, more experiments would have been instituted, and more experience gained among us in reference to its culture and manufacture. It has been found at the West, that where the seed of the Sorghum or Imphee can be ripened, good sugar can be made from the stalk. We shall refer to this matter again in order to stir up your pure minds in regard to it, and get you ready to make your own supply of *sweetening*.

Cumberland Agricultural Society.

We have received a handsomely printed pamphlet of 83 pages containing the "Transactions of the Cumberland County Agricultural and Horticultural Society for the year 1861," including the excellent practical address of Hon. Sam'l F. Perley, delivered at the Exhibition in Gorham, in October last. Among the interesting matters contained in this pamphlet is the report of the Committee upon Farm Improvements in the County. Premiums were offered by the Society, of $100, $50, $25, $15 and $10. There were seventeen competitors for the premiums, seven of whom showed such uniformly superior results, that the Committee were greatly perplexed in making their award to the five worthiest candidates, and accordingly recommended premiums as follows: To Chas. Hunnewell of Windham, $100; Frederick Lowell, Standish, $50; Ebenezer Moulton, Standish, $25; Jarey Green, Naples, $15; John Yates, Standish, S. B. & E. T. Cloudman, Gorham, and Col. Ebenezer Cobb of Gray, $10 each. We make the following extracts in reference to the improvements made by the successful competitors, from the report of the Committee:

"Mr. Charles Hunnewell, of South Windham, has for five seasons been zealously striving to improve his farm. he having been a successful contestant in the previous trial, and for not a single week has he relaxed in his arduous toil. He and Mr. Green were, in our opinion, the two greatest workers; which had driven the hardest we could not decide. Both had worked as hard as men could work—harder we believe than any men ought to work. Mr. Hunnewell's farm, to the most careless eye, bears evidence of being in the hands of a good husbandman, who possesses also an eye for the good appearance of his property. It may be said to be in "apple pie order"—which, as we understand it, conveys an idea of a constant feast. His buildings, and fences around them, are neatly and thoroughly finished and painted. His field fences, of rails with iron rod supports, whitewashed, look like white ribbons stretched along his smooth green fields. The trees he has planted on each side of the county road look thrifty, and already add much to the beauty of the place, and in coming years will make a finely shaded avenue through his farm. His newly set out apple trees must in time bear fruit which will give him a richer remuneration for his years of toil than any premium we might award. But the most herculean labor was performed on what is now his east field, of twenty acres—three years ago a broken, gulchy and wooded pasture.—Whence he has removed utterly, root and branch, more than one thousand trees of hard wood and soft, varying from four inches to thirty inches diameter. When we first viewed this unsightly place, and listened to Mr. H.'s account of what his intentions there were, a look of doubt was exchanged among us—we did not believe the improvements possible within the time. Had we not then seen it, and directed our attention particularly to its condition then, we could not have realized or appreciated the amount of labor done; what was as rough as a clay pasture, covered with growth old and new, well could be, is now smooth enough, as Mr. H. said it should be, for a mowing machine to work over. He also levelled down some hills and filled a ravine near his house, having first laid an excellent stone culvert throughout the bottom of it.

What is especially observable here is, that every thing is completed which Mr. H. proposed to do, and even more than he promised. His whole farm has a neat and finished look, nothing at loose ends, and he has not neglected his crops in his eagerness to make great improvements.

Mr. Frederick Lowell, of Standish, has done his work as thoroughly as any other, perhaps the most so of all. He did not attempt so much as some of the competitors, but he did just that which his farm needed the most, and did it well. His farm is as permanently, though not so generally, improved, as the one to which was awarded the first premium. His underdraining was decidedly the best which came under our observation, at an average cost of about ninety cents a rod. We saw its good effects in the extermination of the polypod and fresh grass, and the complete restoration of a field, which was on our first visit wet and cold.

Another field was substantially fenced anew and cleared of bushes and a scrubby growth of trees. He had improved his neat stock by the introduction of pure blood and grade animals, and had dug a well in a shed attached to his barn for the especial convenience of his stock. Mr. Lowell is a neat farmer, his cultivated ground showed no neglect; every thing about his place denotes the thorough business man who knows what should be done on his farm and does it, because it pays for the doing, and not for fancy's sake.

Mr. Ebenezer Moulton, of Standish, has accomplished a great deal of work in the way of improving his farm, and most of it well done. His house and barn are particularly well planned and finished. The barn, manure shed, porch to house, hog pen, and shop, being within the three seasons of our inspection. He has set out and grafted a goodly number of fruit trees, built good stone wall and completed a great length of underdrain.

Mr. M. is an excellent farmer of great experience. He knows his own business well, and in his opinions and conclusions the members of your Committee would place great confidence; still it did appear to them that he hardly gave depth or finish enough to his underdrain; although, it is a fact, the nature of much of the ground there drained would not admit of so much depth as is generally thought desirable.

Mr. Jarey Green, of Naples, has been one of the most resolute and determined workers among the contestants. Such rooting out of white oak trees, bushes and rocks, as he has done, must, as said the Irishman, be very discouraging to look back upon. The man should be made of cast iron and chill-hardened at that, to go through with it all and come out well. We fear for his bodily health. But our business, he will say, is with his farm, which we found much improved by clearing off great quantities of stone and building them into new and substantial walls, by taking away white oak and other trees, by an addition to his barn, by a new, snug and convenient stable, with a capital cellar under it for hogs and manure, and by a constantly flowing stream of water to house and barns, which is forced from the outlet of Trickey pond, by a water ram whose incessant clicking told a very satisfactory tale of labor-saving to man, woman and children.

Mr. John Yates, of Standish, is a fearless worker. He has built a new and very complete set of farm buildings, consisting of house, wood-house, hog-pen, &c., and barn. Like a wise man he called upon his wife to plan the house, and it is remarkably convenient for comfort and facilitating the woman's work. The convenient arrangement of his barn, shows that he also knows how to plan well for himself. It has a fine cellar under all, a carriage room on the first floor, which can be shut off from the main floor and drive way, horse stalls and convenient cattle stalls, above a grain chamber, and good sized mows. Mr. Y. built some of the best stone wall that we ever saw, and removed many unsightly boulders of granite from his land. He has excavated for underdrain, and also dug very long and deep drains through a wet meadow, in which undertaking, it appeared to us, his neighbor would do a very neighborly and proper thing to join, and by a joint resolute effort, they might, without burdensome cost to either, break through the ledge which now keeps many acres, of a peat and muck sponge, filled with water. We heard no complaint from Mr. Y., who seems able and content to go his way alone; but in reply to a question by one of the Committee, he said he had no aid, where, it was evident, the advantage to his neighbor's land must equal that to his own.

Messrs. S. B. & E. T. Cloudman, of Gorham, have constructed decidedly the best and most conveniently arranged barn, and the neatest, most serviceable and complete set of farm implements which we saw upon our whole route; all the implements and almost the whole of the barn, from the foundation up, made with their own hands. They have cleared and drained 2 acres of bog, and reclaimed about 3 acres of interval, from growing wild grass "caused by the flow of Presumpscot river and by soakings from the canal." They have built a long string of clay-bank fence, ready for the hedge plants, which they propose to set out this fall. They have set out a young orchard of native apple trees and greatly increased the value of their neat stock by replacing old with young and thrifty animals.

Col. Ebenezer Cobb, of Gray, has improved his barn by a cellar below, and a long scaffold in the roof; ditched and cleared several pieces of wet meadow, and built considerable stone wall. But what he chiefly relies upon for a premium is the improvement made upon a piece of dry, sandy, barren plain, which his boys had derisively named, "the promised land, Jr." Here he has demonstrated that proper applications of muck, (large deposits of which are usually to be found in close proximity to this kind of land) with ashes, lime and salt, will bring this arid waste into support of man and beast. So convincingly has Col. C. shown this, by his three years' course, that a neighbor who, owning but a similar piece of, as he thought, barren and worthless land, fired with despair and patriotism, had almost determined to join the army and do battle for his country and his wife, for money and a suit of clothes from Uncle Sam, has now concluded to preserve the integrity of ploughshare and pruning hook, and wage war upon the stumps and stones at home; to wade in muck and mud, rather than in mud and blood, and manfully support his family himself, by adopting the mode of culture which has thus prevailed over barrenness."

Coe's Superphosphate of Lime.

The following letter from Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, one of the most eminent agriculturists in New England, gives a very gratifying account of some experiments with Coe's Superphosphate of Lime:

DORCHESTER, Nov. 20, 1861.

DEAR SIR:—I take pleasure in enclosing, for your examination, some facts in regard to to the comparative value of the Superphosphate of Lime, purchased of you last spring.

Experiments on Old Mowing Land. This land was divided into three equal lots, of one-fourth of an acre each, and dressed as follows:

	Hay product.
No. 1, with one-half cord manure, valued at	$1.00—854 lbs.
No. 2, with 100 lbs. Guano, valued at	$1.00—750 lbs.
No. 3, with 100 lbs. Coe's Superphosphate of Lime, valued at	$2.50—948 lbs.

Experiments with Carrots. This land was old sward land, turned over last fall, and was divided into three equal lots of one-eighth of an acre each:

	Product
No. 1, with 1½ cords manure, valued at	$8 00—75 bush.
No. 2, with 50 lbs. Guano,	" " $1.50—60 bush.
No 3, with 50 lbs Coe's Superphosphate of Lime, valued at	$1.25—90 bush.

Experiments on Two Acres of Old Meadow Land. This land had probably never been plowed before. In the month of August last, the brush, brakes, hedge, &c., were taken off, the sod reversed and the surface made as level as practicable. It was then seeded down with foul meadow and red top seed, with 400 lbs. of your Superphosphate of Lime to the acre. The seed came up well, and at this time the grass is so luxuriant and thickly set, that it attracts attention at the distance of half a mile or more, and should the grass not be winter-killed with ice, there will no doubt be a fine crop next summer. In this instance, as in many others, the economy of the Superphosphate over common barnyard manure, is evident, the cost of the former being not more than the expense of carting would have been of a sufficient quantity of stable manure to produce a like result.

The Superphosphate of Lime is therefore a valuable fertilizer in the reclamation and renovation of old pasture or meadow lands, and especially so where lands like the above are located a mile or more from the homestead.

Superphosphate of Lime is a valuable article in promoting the growth and increasing the fibrous roots of young trees and grape vines, and when applied in liberal quantities to the roots of bearing trees has a beneficial influence on the size and beauty of the fruit. It is equally useful as a fertilizer for cereals, grasses and vegetables, and from experiments made heretofore, I have hopes that it may prove a preventive of the blast upon young seedling pear stocks and to the mildew on pears and other plants subject to these diseases.

As a quick and also as a durable fertilizer, I have seen many proofs in past years. I have ever considered it as one of the most economical manures in use. Yours respectfully,

MARSHALL P. WILDER.

Be Cutting your Scions.

We think those who are intending to cut scions for next spring's grafting, would do well to cut them soon. Last year, and also a year or two ago, scions were very much injured in January and February. At present they are in good condition, and if cut now and placed in a suitable place may be kept in good condition till wanted for use. Should there come a warm spell of weather, sufficiently so as to start the sap a little, and after that a sudden and severe cold snap ensue, they might be so essentially injured as to render them unfit for use. As yet there has been no weather to injure them, and if cut now when the wood has been fully ripened will be in good order.

Good Advice.

A young man "who knows nothing of farming," and has $300 in money, asks the editor of the *American Agriculturist* what he shall do with it. The editor gives him the following sensible advice:

"J. Y. will do well to put his $300 at interest, and to hire himself to a good farmer, till his $300 becomes $400, and he becomes pretty well initiated into the business. We would about as soon undertake to live by our pen without knowing our letters, as to live by farming without some previous experience,—such as he could get with a first-rate farmer.

Prize Corn Bread Receipt.

The prize of $10 offered by Orange Judd, the publisher of the *American Agriculturist*, for the best corn bread loaf, was awarded to Mrs. Jas. O'Brien of Carrick, Pa. The receipt for making the bread is as follows: To two quarts of meal add one pint of bread sponge; water sufficient to wet the whole; add half pint flour and a tablespoonful of salt; let it rise; then knead well for the second time, and place the dough in the oven and allow it to bake an hour and a half.

The Illustrated Register.

We have received from the publishers, the Illustrated Register of Rural Affairs, for 1861. We have already given a full notice of this admirable little manual, but there will be no harm in recommending it anew to the patronage of our agricultural friends, among whom it has always been a welcome visitant. Luther Tucker & Son, Albany, publishers. Price 25 cents each.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

North Somerset Agricultural Society.

Premiums awarded by North Somerset Agricultural Society at its Annual Exhibition, holden at Bingham Oct. 9th and 10th:

NEAT STOCK.

Town Teams. 1st premium on oxen to team from Solon; 2d do., Moscow; 3d do., Bingham. 1st premium on three-year-old steers to team from Solon; 2d do., Bingham. 1st premium on two-year-old steers to team from Bingham; 2d do., Solon.

Oxen and Steers. 1st premium on working oxen to N. Smith; 2d do., E. Hathorn; 3d do., J. Bassett. 1st premium on draft oxen to N. Smith; 2d do., S. Parlin; 3d do., Wm. Hall. 1st premium on matched oxen to W. Greaton; 2d do., Mrs. D. French; 3d do., E. R. Baker. 1st premium on three-year-old steers to N. Smith; 2d do., N. Smith; 3d do., E. Hathorn. 1st premium on two-year-old steers to Moses French; 2d do., W. Greaton; 3d do., N. Smith. 1st premium on one-year-old steers to L. Pierce; 2d do., W. H. Russell; 3d do., W. Greaton. 1st premium on matched three-year-old steers to E. Hathorn; 2d do., C. H. Albee; 3d do., P. Goodrich. 1st premium on matched two-year-old steers to N. Smith; 2d do., W. Greaton; 3d do., T. Smith. 1st premium on matched one-year-old steers to J. L. Pierce; 2d do., W. Greaton; 3d do., W. Greaton. 1st premium on steer calves to Andrew Heald; 2d do., D. S. Thompson.

Cows and Heifers. 1st premium on stock cows to Wm. Irvine; 3d do., W. Greaton; 3d do., N. Smith. 1st premium on milch cows to Robert Burns; 2d do., N. Smith; 3d do., A. Dinsmore. 1st premium on three-year old heifers to Eli Jackman; 2d do., Andrew Heald. 1st premium on two-year-old heifers to Wm. Irvine; 2d do., C. Baker; 3d do., Thomas Doyle. 1st premium on one-year-old heifers to Seth Goodrich; 2d do., J. S. Goodrich; 3d do., D. T. Thompson. 1st premium on heifer calves to David Whipple, Jr.; 2d do., Robert Burns; 3d do., Nicholas Smith.

Bulls. 1st premium to John Graves; 2d do., Jona. Bassett; 3d do., Jotham Whipple. 1st premium on one-year-old bulls to Jotham Whipple; 2d do., Robert Burns; 3d do., T. F. Chase. 1st premium on bull calves to W. Greaton; 2d do., E. W. Parlin; 3d do., N. Smith.

HORSES.

1st premium on stock horses to C. C. Savage; 2d do., J. Smith. 1st premium on breeding mares to Jonathan Stearling; 2d do., Stephen Merrill; 3d do., Robert Burns. 1st premium on matched horses to Joseph Clark, Jr.; 2d do., T. Wyman; 3d do., I. F. Davis. 1st premium on pairs of work horses to Joseph Clark, Jr.; 2d do., John C. Walker; 3d do., C. Baker. 1st premium on family horses to A. Dinsmore; 2d do., E. R. Baker; 3d do., Z. F. Hathorn. 1st premium on work horses to J. S. McIntire; 2d do., Jos. Clark, Jr.; 3d do., T. F. Chase.

1st premium on three-year-old colts to Jona. Bassett; 2d do., Simeon Goodrich; 3d do., Geo. Garden. 1st premium on two-year-old colts to S. Merrill; 2d do., B. F. Leadbetter; 3d do., R. S. Hawes. 1st premium on one-year-old colts to Mrs. D. French; 2d do., C. H. Albee; 3d do., R. Burns. 1st premium on spring colts to D. F. Thompson; 2d do., Jona. Stearling; 3d do., Stephen Merrill.

SHEEP.

1st premium on grade Spanish bucks to T. F. Boothby; 2d do., W. Greaton; 3d do., John Bray. 1st premium on 6 ewe sheep—common breed, to E. W. Parlin; on 6 ewe sheep—grade Spanish, to W. Greaton; 2d do., J. S. Goodrich. 1st premium on 6 lambs to J. S. Goodrich; 2d and 3d do., same.

SWINE.

1st premium on boars to Wm. Hawes; 2d do., W. H. Russell.

POULTRY.

To Elihu Thompson, 1st premium on cock turkey, rooster, 6 young turkeys, 2 pairs ducks, 6 hens; 2d do. for rooster; to D. T. Thompson, 2d do., on cock turkey, and 6 young turkeys.

VEGETABLES AND FRUIT.

1st premium on seed corn to N. Thompson; 2d do., J. S. Goodrich; 3d do., J. S. McIntire. 1st premium on winter apples to John Whipple; 2d do., Eastman Hathorn; 3d do., N. F. Blunt. 1st premium on fall apples to N. F. Blunt; 2d do., E. Hathorn. 1st premium on squashes to J. M. Given; 2d do., Elihu Thompson; 3d do., C. Baker. 1st premium on cabbages to Elihu Thompson.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

1st premium on firkin butter to Mrs. Stephen Parlin; 2d do., Mrs. B. F. Leadbetter; 3d do., Mrs. Wilson Greaton. 1st premium on ball butter to Mrs. W. Greaton; 2d do., Mrs. E. W. Parlin; 3d do., Mrs. D. T. Thompson. 1st premium on cheese to Mrs. John Graves; 2d do., Mrs. E. W. Parlin; 3d do., B. F. Leadbetter.

FIELD CROPS.

1st premium on wheat to Eastman Thompson; 2d do., Z. F. Hathorn; 3d do., Eastman Hathorn; diploma, R. S. Hawes. 1st premium on corn to T. F. Boothby; 2d do., J. S. McIntire; 3d do., Z. F. Hathorn. 1st premium on barley to Z. F. Hathorn; 2d do., Nathaniel Withee; 3d do., Eastman Thompson. 1st premium on oats to Moses French. 1st premium on beans to N. Smith. 1st premium on potatoes to N. Withee; 2d do., Moses French; 3d do., E. Thompson; diploma to Jotham Whipple. 1st premium on turnips to Nicholas Smith.

LADIES' MANUFACTURES.

1st premium on cotton quilts to Mrs. Jas. Burr; 2d do., Mrs. E. W. Parlin; 3d, Mrs. W. Greaton. 1st premium on woolen quilts to Mrs. S. Benson; 2d, Mrs. R. Barns. 1st premium on comforters to Mrs. W. Greaton; 2d, Mrs. D. T. Thompson; 3d, Mrs. S. Merrill. 1st premium on rag rugs to Mrs. S. Goodrich; 2d, Mrs. Eli Jackman; 3d, Mrs. W. Greaton. 1st premium on cloth dresses to Mrs. P. Goodrich; 2d, Mrs. Elizabeth Cleveland. 1st premium on cotton and wool blankets to Mrs. B. F. Leadbetter; 2d, Miss Eva A. Cummings; 3d, Mrs. S. Parlin; 1st premium on all wool blankets to Mrs. E. W. Parlin. 1st premium on carpeting to Miss A. E. Maynard.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Premiums on miscellaneous articles were awarded as follows:

Miss E. A. Cummings, hair wreath; Mrs. S. E. Blunt do. Mrs. S. E. Blunt picture. Miss Jane Smith, stand cloth; Eunice L. Parlin wrought collar; Miss Hight head-dress, watch-case, and lamp-mat; Miss D. A. Holway crochet edging; Miss L. A. Holway do.; Miss C. French undersleeves and collar; Mrs. N. F. Blunt, cone watch-case, 2 prs. gents' socks; Miss Caroline Blunt patch-work, and child's socks; Mrs. Simeon Goodrich, wrought pin-cushion, 4 prs. ladies' socks, linen towels, 4 pots of flowers; Mrs. E. Parlin, wrought shoes; Mrs. J. Colby, 2 lamp-mats and card basket; Mrs. S. P. Smith, pencil picture; Mrs. C. C. Savage, mittens; Mrs. Ruth L. Harris card basket; Miss A. E. Maynard, pin cushion; Mrs. D. T. Thompson pin cushion, plant, maple syrup, net trimming; Mrs. W. Greaton what-not, brown bread, white bread, 3 prs. mittens, gents' socks; Mrs. Stephen Parlin pants; Mrs. A. Holway, pie and honey; Mrs. A. Heald, maple syrup; Mrs. E. W. Parlin, maple syrup and sugar; Mrs. D. Whipple, maple sugar; Mrs. S. Parlin, sliced apple; Miss S. P. Parlin, holy thistle; Mrs. J. Smith, scarf; Miss S. Parlin, table-cloths; Miss S. Merrill, ladies' clothes; Mrs. J. S. McIntire, scarf; Mrs. S. Parlin, linen towels; Mrs. Eli Jackman, mittens; Mrs. J. S. McIntire and Miss Elizabeth P. Parlin, each mittens; Mrs. Calvin Russell, Mrs. S. P. Parlin and Mrs. S. Parlin, each gloves; Mrs. S. Merrill child's socks; also ladies' socks; Mrs. Eli P. Parlin and Mrs. S. P. Parlin, ladies' socks; Mrs. J. Burr, child's socks; Mrs. N. J. Andrews, mittens; Mrs. S. P. Parlin, cotton socks; Mrs. S. Parlin, scarf; Mrs. S. P. Parlin, scarf; Mrs. C. P. Parlin, tidy and gents' socks; Mrs. E. Jackman, gents' socks; Mrs. S. Maynard, dress-stand and work-box; Mrs. Colby, what-not; Mrs. W. P. Preble, 14 pictures; Mrs. N. Baker, picture; Mrs. C. Russell, linen towels; Mrs. R. Burns, sleigh-robes; Mrs. W. Goodrich, white bread.

O. R. BACHELLER, Sec'y.

For the Maine Farmer.

Experimental Entomology---No. 2.

SUBJECT—Appletree Caterpillar. (*Clisiocampa Americana.*) June 27th, 1861, I observed an appletree caterpillar, who had probably but just deserted his tented home, on a post in the interior of an outbuilding. He was about an inch and a half in length, full grown and in a semi-dormant condition. As he did not seem inclined to move I left him to his reveries, determining to watch his movements. On the next morning I visited him, and lo! what a change had been wrought in those few hours—the caterpillar had apparently disappeared, and about two inches from where I left him, in a corner, was a nice cocoon securely fastened to the building. It was pure white, very tough, and formed of fine hairs of the consistency of wool, of an oval shape and little over an inch long and half an inch in diameter. On close examination I found that it contained my acquaintance of yesterday, in fact the caterpillar had spun the cocoon during the night and was preparing to undergo his metamorphosis. Through the cocoon I could see him not much changed, and bent nearly double, while I will leave him for the present. I should have said I disengaged him, or rather the cocoon from its position and placed it in my vivarium to witness the changes. June 30th, examined the insect again. It is now a chrysalis or pupa, an inch long, of a dull brownish black color, and very lively. July 10th, very lively, presenting in its covering or case, the forms of its wings, &c. July 20th, it had come forth from its cocoon and case in the last form a winged state. It is a moth half an inch in length and measuring an inch and a half across the expanded wings. Its color is a dull brown with two lighter colored bands or stripes across the forward wings, dividing them into nearly equal parts. This stripe varies in different individuals in my collection. The antennæ is a third of an inch in length and finely serrated. I notice some difference between the specimens; the females are a shade lighter colored, and the abdomen is more enlarged than in males. These moths lay their eggs during July on the limbs of the tree and cover them with a glutinous coating, where they remain till the next spring, when they hatch and pass the changes above described.

Belfast, 1861. GEO. E. BRACKETT.

For the Maine Farmer.

Pork Items.

THE BIGGEST ONE YET. Mr. David Riley of this town, killed a pig last week, eight months and ten days old, that weighed, dressed, 487 lbs. It was one-half Chester. The mother was a grade Suffolk and Macky. It will be hard to beat Bridgton in raising big pigs.

A SUBSCRIBER.

South Bridgton, Dec. 23, 1861.

MR. EDITOR:—Edmund Joy of Patten, killed a hog 17 months old, weighed 660 lbs. Ezra Cushman of No. 3, killed two hogs 18 months old each, whose aggregate weight was 1200 lbs. We think this pretty good for Aroostook.

No. 3, Dec. 23, 1861.

I have a sow that dropped 10 pigs in September, which, at four weeks old, weighed 200¼ lbs., and I have three of the same which when 10 weeks old weighed 200 lbs. D. MALCOM.

China, Dec. 18, 1861.

Agricultural Miscellany.

Plowing.

In plowing, the most important items are the kind of plow and teams. More depends on the first item than many suppose; the draught is a very important consideration; a plow may turn a nice furrow and not draw very easily. Reason would lead us to select for easy draught a plow having a long mould-board with the smallest angle with the land side; that is, we would suppose that a plow turning a nine-inch furrow would turn it much easier with a mould board which extended twenty-four inches back from the point, than one which extended only twelve. Such would be the case but for one thing, that is friction; the extra amount of friction on the long mould-board will counterbalance the gain by the length thereof.

Those plows which have the lightest draught are not the best sod plows; for to decrease the draught it is necessary to have a short mould-board; this turns the sod over so quick as to break it.

The best sod plow with which I am yet acquainted, is the old-fashioned, long-beamed barshare. I have one of this kind, which, with two yoke of oxen, on ground clear of stone, has run for twenty feet without any support at the handles; it is six and a half feet long in the beam, (if I was getting another one made I would add six inches more,) three feet two inches from point of share to back end of mould-board, and twelve inches wide at the heel. With this plow and two yoke of oxen or three horses, I will turn a furrow ten by nine all day long; it is not of as light draught as some plows which are shorter in the mould-board, but will do its work more to please me. Such a plow is invaluable for breaking a clearing, for, being composed in the main of wrought iron, it will not easily break; and if sharp, will cut off a good sized root; it is not easily thrown out of the ground by stones, and if thrown out it is easily entered again. For plowing cornstalk or stubble, I would prefer a plow shorter in the mould-board *but long in the beam.* This I think is the fault with most of our cast-iron plows, they are too short in the beam to run steadily. This in in my opinion the fault of the Wiley and Atwood plows.

The next item is the team, and an important one it is; for no matter how good the plow or plowman may be, if the team is bad, you must not expect good work.

For stiff sod, to plow it deep and well, oxen will be best; two yoke should be used, the best ones on the lead; and if you break young oxen, put them at the beam and keep the front yoke up to their work, and thus the others must keep in a line. Here again is the utility of a long beam. If the off ox does walk out of the furrow for a short distance, it does not affect the plow much; but with a short beam it soon shows itself. A person unacquainted with plows would be surprised at the difference made by one foot at the end of the beam.

In plowing sod for corn, it is best to commence in the middle of the field and plow from the fence, for then the team will turn on the sod and not on the plowed ground. This, when two yoke of oxen are used, makes a material difference, for after the ground gets tramped down, the harrow will not loosen it, and short corn at the corners is the result. The proper place, in the middle, will be found by the old clearing up furrows.

I prefer to plow towards the middle for corn—away from it for oats—and towards it for wheat, the first plowing, and away from it the second plowing.

In plowing cornstalk or stubble, if the turns are made with care and the ground well harrowed the clearing up furrows will not be in the way. Plow deep for corn—deep for oats—deep for wheat, the first time; but not so deep the second. Always plow twice for wheat, although it does not much benefit the wheat; the actual benefit conferred on the ensuing grass crop will more than repay the cost. Plow the stubble down deep with two yoke of oxen or three horses; harrow the ground once; roll it with a heavy roller; haul out your manure and spread it; then plow it down six or eight inches deep just before planting time. This will use up the oats which was left on taking off the crop, which will otherwise grow and smother out more or less wheat.

In plowing sod, it is best not to turn the furrow over flat, but rather let it lean against the previous one at an angle of 30 or 40 degrees; the space will admit air and act as drains; the corners instead of the bottoms of the furrow being turned up, the field will harrow down better.

Deep plowing is best both in a wet and in a dry season; in the former it takes the surplus water below the roots of the plant, and in the latter it enables the roots to penetrate downwards to the moisture. But if a field has heretofore been plowed shallow, do not go down nine or ten inches, or your crop will be small; but go down gradually, an inch every year or every plowing. It will pay; remember that six bushels of corn per acre at 50 cents per bushel, will more than pay for the plowing. I find from accounts which I have kept, that to plow a stiff blue grass and to the average depth of 10½ or 11 inches, with two yoke of oxen, plowman and driver, costs $2.93½ per acre. This is on an allowance of $1 per day for plowman, 75 cents for driver, six per cent. on cost of oxen, and actual market value of their food.

The above sod was unusually stiff and brought "big corn." A common clover and timothy sod plowed in the same manner, cost $2.08 per acre. Three horses, geared abreast, make a very good team in a field clear of stone or roots. In plowing a triangular strip, do not go out to the point, but turn across the sod when it is 8 or 10 feet wide, and thus reduce it to a parallelogram of this width, and your team does not turn on the plowed ground.

Always learn your team not to stop at the corners, but come around and start in without being told to do so. It is easy to learn them, and saves both your wind and that of—SPIKE HARROW, in *Germantown Telegraph.*

A Rarey among Horned Cattle.

A correspondent of the *N. Y. Tribune*, speaks of a performance with steers as follows:

"Every year I have been able to learn something new—something beneficial to me as a farmer, or something that I could communicate to others to their advantage. I shall try to profit equally by what I see here. I have seen one thing to-day which I wish every farmer, and every man who ever drives oxen, or handles cattle in any way, could see as I have seen. It would teach him the great benefits of the law of kindness. We have all heard of Rarey among horses and have almost loved the man in our admiration of his process of training. I have just seen a Rarey among horned cattle. Here is a boy perhaps 10 years old, training and handling six steers, not yet two years old, with all the ease that an experienced Yankee ox-driver handles a single pair while in the yoke; and has no yoke, nor rope, nor does he speak a word scarcely above a loud whisper, and only occasionally strikes a blow that would raise a blister upon the skin of a child. All his actions are based upon the laws of kindness, with a firm determination that all his orders must be obeyed. Now he brings up a single pair as though yoked together; then two yoke, then three; then he mismatches all of them as though he were about to yoke the off ox on the near side. Then he changes places, and puts odd ones together; then he unyokes, if I may use the term when he does not use a yoke, all of them, and brings them up in a line like a platoon of soldiers, and with greater precision than any "awkward squad." Then he trains them round by twos and threes, or drops out a single one and orders him to a new place by a motion of his small whip, or, as it seemed to me, often by a mere effort of his will that he desired a change of position. For an hour that I stood watching, there was another pair of older steers standing just outside of the circle of his operations, patiently waiting their turn, until some one asked: "Can you handle eight as well as six?" "I could," he modestly replied, "if my whip was a little longer. I can't reach the outside one, when in line with this short whip, but I will try." And so he did; and notwithstanding the short whip, all were managed with the utmost ease, and all who saw were taught a lesson which none seemed to tire of learning. I hope they will profit by it. Will those who read also profit so far as to pursue the same course in training all domestic animals. Teach your boys too, to yoke up the young steers, to use them kindly, with patient perseverance, to make them as bidable as this boy has these now on exhibition, and then they will make good and valuable oxen."

Have You an Ice-House?

It can be be made very cheaply, and when the luxury of ice in Summer is once enjoyed, it will not be readily given up. If no better structure can be erected, build an ice room in one corner of the wood house, or any shed where room can be spared. The north-east corner is best. Set a row of upright posts one foot from the inner sides of a building, and two rows of posts a foot apart for the other two sides of the room; make the enclosure say eight or ten feet square. Cover these with rough boards or slabs, and fill the space between with spent tan bark. Lay down a loose floor, and cover a foot deep with straw. When ice is formed, select that which is pure, clear, and hard, cut it into pieces of convenient size, and pack it closely in the room. Leave six inches space between the ice and the sides of the room, and fill this with sawdust. Also cover with sawdust a foot thick, and fill up to the roof with straw. Packed in this way, ice enough to supply a family of average size has been kept safely, the season through.

Rotation of Crops.

The *Country Gentleman* says that James Beatty and Sons, successful farmers in Cayuga county, N. Y., adopt the following rotation:

Their fields successively lie in meadow two years; in pasture the third; the fourth corn is planted on the sod, the manure having been applied the previous autumn, and the sod plowed just before planting. Corn is followed the fifth year by barley, which is seeded to clover by rolling. The clover is pastured with sheep, the pasture thus obtained being equal to the expense of seeding until the following summer, when it is converted to summer fallow for wheat. The droppings of the sheep, and the crop of clover, furnish an excellent preparation for this grain, which is harvested the sixth year. It is followed by a growth of two years and pasture one, as already mentioned. Underdraining and this rotation "have more than doubled the crops in the aggregate," during the last ten years.

A Great Market Gardener.

Charles Backus, a Long Island farmer, has under cultivation eight large farms devoted to raising vegetables for New York market. During the past year he has raised 30 acres of potatoes, 15 or 20 of parsnips, carrots and beets, 50 of corn, 80 of cabbages. One hundred acres are devoted to asparagus, and forty of currants. Three and a half acres are under glass for raising early salad, radishes, cucumbers, etc. From 300 to 350 laborers are employed in the summer season, and twelve large wagon loads of produce are every day sent to the city. His business in a single year amounted to 100,000. Only thirteen years years ago two wagon loads per week was the whole amount of produce raised by Mr. B. who has every year since extended his operations, until they probably now exceed those of any market gardener in the Union.

TO KEEP CRANBERRIES FRESH.

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Thursday, Jan. 2, 1862.

NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Mr. S. N. Taber will immediately commence his annual call upon subscribers in Kennebec County.

Col. Wm. Swett will call upon subscribers in Oxford County.

Mr. H. P. Weeks will call upon subscribers in Lincoln and Knox Counties during the month of November.

Mr Warren Fuller will call upon subscribers in Somerset.

Settlement of the Slidell and Mason Case.

This important case, the just and honorable settlement of which by the diplomacy of the two countries, rather than by the arbitrament of war, has been anxiously desired by every reasonable man in England and America, has been brought to a final, and we trust satisfactory termination. The rebel commissioners have been surrendered by our government, in response to the formal demand of Great Britain, and in accordance not only with the requirements of international law as interpreted by enlightened jurists and publicists, but what is of still more importance to the American people, in vindication of a principle which our government has always advocated and insisted upon, and England with equal uniformity heretofore, has denied and violated. We have thus the satisfaction of seeing a wise and liberal principle established essential to the commercial welfare and peace of the world, by the prompt relinquishment by us of what may be regarded as an important temporary national advantage. The correspondence upon the subject between Lord John Russell and Mr. Seward is published in full, but we are only able to present the principal points of the discussion and its results as we find them in a telegraphic abstract:

The correspondence commences with a letter from Secretary Seward to Minister Adams, dated Nov. 30th, in which he compliments the latter for so wisely speaking and acting at the Lord Lyons dinner; and also states that he told Lord Palmerston the simple fact when informing him that the life of the insurrection is sustained by the hopes of a recognition of the southern confederacy, by England and France, and if those hopes ceased, the insurrection would perish in 90 days. He refers in the same note to the fact of the arrest of Mason and Slidell by Capt. Wilkes, as a new and unforeseen circumstance, which is to be met by the two governments if possible, in a kindly spirit. Lord Lyons had said nothing on the subject, and no explanations were furnished Minister Adams, it being deemed prudent that the ground taken by the British government should be first made known here, and discussion to be had here, but Mr. Seward deemed it proper to state that Capt. Wilkes acted without instructions, and the subject therefore is free from the embarrassments that might have ensued if the act had been specially directed. He trusts that the British government will consider the subject in a friendly temper, and it may expect the best disposition on our part.

The next letter is from Earl Russell to Lord Lyons, dated Nov. 30th, which details the Trent affair. He says, it thus appears that certain individuals have been forcibly taken from a British vessel, the ships of a neutral power, on a lawful and innocent voyage, an act of violence which was an affront to the British flag, and a violation of national law. Her Majesty's government are willing to believe the act was without authority, and resulted from misunderstanding; as the government of the United States must be fully aware that the British government will not allow such an affront to its national honor to pass without due reparation, and the British government are unwilling to believe that the United States deliberately intended unnecessarily to force a discussion of so grave a question between the two governments.

Her Majesty's government trusts that the government of the United States, will of its own accord, offer such redress as alone can satisfy them—namely, the liberation of the four persons and their delivery to Lord Lyons that they may again be placed under British protection, and a suitable apology for the aggression committed. Should these terms not be offered by Mr. Seward, you will propose them to him.

Mr. Seward replies to Lord Lyons, by whom he was furnished a copy of Earl Russell's letter, stating that the dispatch had been submitted to the President. Mr. Seward states that the British government rightly conjectured what it is now my duty to state; that Capt. Wilkes acted upon his own suggestions of duty, without any direction or instructions, or even foreknowledge of it on the part of this government. No directions had been given him, or any other naval officer, to arrest the four persons, or any of them, on the Trent, or any other British vessel, there or elsewhere. After discussing the whole question at great length, in all its bearings, Mr Seward says, I trust I have shown to the satisfaction of the British Government by a very simple and natural statement of facts and analysis of law applicable to them, that this government has neither meditated nor practiced or approved any deliberate wrong in the transaction to which they have called its attention; and on the contrary, that what has happened has been simply an inadverteney, consisting in a departure by the naval officer, free from any wrongful motive, from a rule uncertainly established, and probably, by the several parties concerned, either imperfectly understood or entirely unknown; for this error the British Government has a right to expect the same reparation that we as an independent State should expect from Great Britain, or from any friendly nation in a similar case.

I have not been unaware that in examining this question I have fallen into an argument for what seems to be the British side of it, against my own country; but I am relieved from all embarrassment on that subject. I had hardly fallen into that line of argument when I discovered that I was really defending and maintaining not an exclusively British interest, but an old honored and cherished American cause, not upon British authorities, but upon principles that constitute a large portion of the distinctive policy by which the United Srtes have developed the resources of a continent, and thus becoming a considerable maratime power, have won the respect and confidence of many nations. These principles were laid down for us by James Madison in 1804, when Secretary of State under Jefferson, in instructions to James Monroe, our then Minister to England.

Mr. Seward says after quoting these instructions, "If I decide this case in favor of my own Government, I must disallow its most cherished principles, and reverse and forever abandoned its essential policy. The country can not afford the sacrifice. If I maintain those principles, and adhere to that policy, I must surrender the case itself. It will be seen therefore that this Government could not deny the justice of the claim presented. We are asked to do the British nation just what we have always insisted all nations ought to do to us. In coming to my conclusion, I have not forgotten that if the safety of this Union required the detention of the captured prisoners, it would be the right and duty of this Government to detain them. But the effectual check and waning proportions of the existing insurrections as well as the comparative unimportance of the captured persons themselves, when dispassionately weighed, happily forbid me from resorting to that defense, nor am I unaware that American citizens are not in any case to be unnecessarily surrendered for any purpose into keeping of a foreign State; only the captured persons however, or others, who are interested on them, could justly raise a question on that ground. It would tell little for our own claims to the character of a just and magnanimous people if we should so far consent to be guided by the law of retaliation as to lift up buried injuries against national consistency and national conscience. Putting behind me all suggestions of this kind, I prefer to express my satisfaction that by the adjustment of the present case upon principles confessed by America, and yet as I trust, mutual satisfaction to both nations concerned, a question is finally and rightly settled between them, which, heretofore exhausted not only all forms of peaceful discussion, but also the arbitrament of war itself for more than half a century, alienated the two countries from each other, and perplexed with fears and apprehensions of other nations.

The four persons in question are now held in military custody at Fort Warren, in the state of Massachusetts. They will be cheerfully liberated. Your Lordship will please indicate a time and place for receiving them. I renew the assurance of my very high consideration.

[Signed] Wm. H. Seward.

Fire in Wayne. The dwelling-house and outbuildings of Mr. Benjamin Maxim, North Wayne, were burned on Sunday evening last. Loss estimated at $1000, insurance $500. The fire caught from some defect in stove or chimney.

Maine Military Items.

The several regiments and batteries of cavalry, infantry and artillery still encamped in this city, are diligently engaged in the improvement of their drill, and in familiarizing the officers and men to the various soldierly duties which will qualify them for useful service in the field. Although it is expected that the troops will be paid off during the present week, it is still uncertain how soon they may take their departure for the seat of war. We hear it reported that intimations have been received from head quarters to the effect that no movement will be ordered until spring, and that they will consequently remain here in winter quarters. Unless these regiments are needed for active winter service, such a course will be vastly more economical for the government, and advantageous to the men.

The Military Hospital on Winthrop street, now contains 174 patients—a large portion of whom, however, are now convalescent, and will soon be discharged. The affairs of the Hospital are conducted with great efficiency and success under the administration of Dr. S. C. Hunkins, assisted by Mr. Jordan the Superintendent and Miss Ellen M. Norcross, the Matron. Every consideration is had for the comfort of the sick, and unremitting efforts are made for their restoration to health. Three deaths only have occurred since the establishment of the hospital, some three weeks since—several hundred patients having meanwhile been under treatment. Many ladies of this city continue their kind ministrations in aid of the sick at this and the other hospitals, by personal attendance, and the contribution of broths, gruels and other delicacies from their tables, articles of bedding, clothing, &c., which are greatly needed and gratefully received. The thanks of the sick soldiers at the Winthrop Street Hospital are due to ladies of Bangor, for liberal contributions of jellies and preserves of various kinds, recently contributed for their use.

The resignation of Col. Lee Strickland of the Maine 8th regiment at Port Royal, has been accepted and he arrived at New York in the steamer Empire City on Sunday last. Lt. Smith of the 8th, and Captains Haines, Wentworth and Wedgeworth of the 9th have also arrived home from Port Royal. Capt. John F. Milliken of the Maine 8th has also resigned in consequence of ill health, and returned home. He reports the health of the Eighth good as a general thing, though a large number were suffering under severe colds, to which our men are very liable, on account of the sudden changes of the climate."

Lt. Col. John D. Rust has been promoted to the command of the 8th regiment, and Major E. W. Woodman has taken Col. Rust's former position. Capt. Jos. F. Twitchell, of Co. B, has been raised to the Majority. Among other resignations, we notice those of Lt. Col. Colman Harding of the 9th, and Capt. Wm. M. Cushman of the 7th. Major Silas M. Fuller, has been promoted to Lt. Colonel, and Capt. E. Walker has been promoted to Major of the 4th regiment.

Col. N. J. Jackson of the Maine 5th is now on a brief visit to his family at Lewiston. The Col. is in fine health and spirits, and speaks in the highest terms of the regiment.

The Defence of Portland Harbor. Mayor Thomas of Portland, has recently visited Washington to confer with the Secretary of War in regard to the proper defence of the harbor of Portland. His mission was completely successful. Instructions have been given to Capt. T. L. Casey, of the corps of engineers in charge of the fortifications on the seaboard of Maine, to examine the points of land about the harbor of the city for the purpose of determining suitable positions for the erection of batteries and other defences. Capt. Casey has already entered upon the work and will complete it very shortly. Gen. Ripley of the Ordnance Bureau, also assured the Mayor that the first guns cast by the Portland Company should be placed upon the fortifications, that he would within a few days forward drawings and specifications to the Company for the construction of guns—that requisitions for powder and ball should be immediately met; also provision for gun-carriages, and that within a few days, Capt. Rodman of the Ordnance Department would visit Portland for the purpose of reporting what ordnance, &c., is necessary.

The Death of Prince Albert. We announced last week that Prince Albert, husband of the Sovereign of the British Empire, and Prince Consort, died on the 15th of December, of gastric fever. He was in his 43d year, and about three months younger than Queen Victoria, having been born on the 26th of August, 1819. He was a member of a princely race that has figured largely in the royal marriages of this century, being the second son of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. His marriage with Queen Victoria took place on the 10th of February, 1840, but he was not made Prince Consort until many years later, yet many honors were bestowed upon him. He was made a Field-Marshal, which was Wellington's military rank. Though precluded by his position from taking any part in the government of the British Empire, being nothing but the Queen's husband, he did not allow his faculties to rust, but devoted himself to science, letters, and the arts, like a true German, and so won general esteem. The Great International Exhibition of 1851, was largely indebted to his counsels and exertions for its success. He was an estimable man in all the relations of life, and his death will be unusually regretted.

Male Population of Maine. A friend has furnished us the following classification of the male inhabitants of the State, made up from the census of 1860, by the direction of Adjutant General Hodsdon, for the purpose of a new organization of the Militia.

Under 17 years,	126,831
From 17 to 20,	21,047
" 20 to 25,	30,192
" 25 to 30,	23,774
" 30 to 35,	19,654
" 35 to 40,	17,799
" 40 to 50,	30,506
" 50 and upwards,	45,483
Total,	315,286

Notwithstanding more than one-third of our male population is shown by the above statement to be under 17 years of age, and more than one-half under 17 and over 50 we have still an efficient fighting population in case of emergency of 142,972, between 17 and 50 years.

Dramatic Entertainment. The players are coming to town. Mr. Geo. Fletcher, for some years past attached to the Howard Atheneum, Boston, will with an excellent company of performers commence a series of dramatic entertainments at Meonian Hall in this city on Tuesday evening next. This company has been very successful in its performances at Portland and Lewiston, and we are assured that our theatre-going people will have the opportunity of enjoying histrionic exhibitions of a character rarely witnessed except in the large cities of the Union. We hope they will be liberally encouraged and sustained.

☞ Col. Neal Dow of the 13th Maine Infantry has been presented by the merchants and manufacturers of Portland, with an elegant dress sword, and by the Maine Charitable Mechanics' Association with a complete set of elegant horse equipments. The presentation speeches were made by Hon. Jedediah Jewett and N. A. Foster, Esq., and were eloquently responded to by Col. Dow.

☞ The watch-house at Lewiston was set on fire on Tuesday evening the 24th inst., by one of the prisoners confined there for theft. Two prisoners were burned to death—one a Mr. Carney of Lisbon, and Daniel Hartney of Lewiston.

Our Coast Defences.

It will be remembered that in October last, Secretary Seward addressed a circular letter to the Governors of the several States, recommending the efficient fortification of their lines of seaboard and frontier against hostile attack, in view of a possible rupture with foreign powers, growing out of the complications of the present rebellion. Gov. Washburn immediately responded to the recommendation of the Secretary of State, by an able communication upon the subject to the President, and the appointment of Messrs. Hamlin, Williams and Poor, commissioners to confer with the Government in reference to the importance of the prompt and thorough defence of our sea-coast, and the character and extent of the works needed for the purpose. The subject was promptly taken in hand by the General Government, and competent engineer officers appointed to make an examination and furnish the necessary plans, estimates and specifications, in season for such Legislative action as may be required. A bill is now before Congress authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to receive any moneys which may be appropriated by the several States for the public defences, to be expended by the Federal Government under the direction of proper agents and officers appointed for the purpose; such moneys bearing six per cent. interest and repayable to the State in twenty years. Each State is to be required to advance all the means needed to complete such works in accordance with the plans adopted and authorized by the General Government. The subject will no doubt be presented to the Legislature in the annual message of the Governor, to be followed by prompt and patriotic action on its part. The following is Gov. Washburn's letter:

Augusta, Oct. 23, 1861.

The undersigned, Governor of Maine, acknowledges the receipt of the official note of the Secretary of State, under the date of the 14th instant, inviting the attention of the executive of this State to the important matter of the public defence of its coast, in view of a possibility of an interruption of the present friendly relations of the government of the United States with those of foreign powers. Fully sensible of the watchfulness and fidelity of the President, and of those in charge of the various departments of the government, in guarding against any possible danger, whether arising from domestic insurrection or foreign invasion, the authorities and people of Maine cannot have failed to feel the deepest solicitude in reference to the subject-matter of that communication, from the very great extent of her undefended sea-coast, and the remembrance of the sufferings of the people of this State in former wars; and in her behalf I desire to tender my most cordial thanks for this wise and thoughtful recognition by the general government of what her position and circumstances demand.

Without recounting the facts of the early history of that portion of the continent now included within the limits of the present State of Maine, the contests between France and England for its possession, and the Indian cruelties that follow in the train of war, by which its villages and towns were devastated, I need only to remind your excellency of the events of the wars of the revolution, and of 1812 with England, to impress on the government the vast importance of Maine in a military and naval point of view as a means of power and strength to the national government.

Its shores are indented with many excellent harbors, and its geographical position for military, naval, and commercial purposes commands the finest portion of the continent of North America.

The failure of the French to hold the shores of the Atlantic ocean between Piscataqua and Sagadahoc, and maintain their communication between Montreal and the sea, lost to them the noblest colonial empire the world has ever seen.

Though settled by the French as early as 1604, and by the English in 1608, under separate grants covering the entire territory—that from the French king dated in 1603, and that from the British crown in 1606—it was not until the conquest of Canada, by the capture of Quebec in 1759, that Maine enjoyed peace and repose under the dominion of Great Britain. During the war of the revolution the bulk of her territory was in the possession of the English, and the war of 1812 found her coast defenceless, and all her eastern harbors, from Castine to the St. Croix river, occupied by the enemy.

Should war again occur with any leading European power, Maine must fall at once into the hands of the enemy, unless means of defence are provided.

From the State line at Kittery to West Quoddy Head, in a coast line of three hundred miles, there are over one hundred good harbors at which ships are built and manned, with an actual shore line of more than t ree thousand miles, following the line of tide water into navigable bays, inlets, and deep river estuaries. No one harbor is properly defended, and in only three have attempts at defence been made.

A slight breastwork battery at Eastport, called Fort Sullivan, Fort Knox, partially constructed at Bucksport Narrows on the Penobscot, and the forts at Portland harbor, are all the fortifications on the coast of Maine.

Castine, the British naval station on the Atlantic ocean in the war of 1812, could again be occupied in the same way, for all the defences of former times have fallen to ruin and decay. Belfast, Rockland, George's river, Wiscasset, and the Kennebec river, are all without any sign of defence. The important shipping port of Bath, the city of Augusta, the State Capital, and the larger towns on the Kennebec, are all at the mercy of a single sloop-of-war.

The highest military authorities would undoubtedly concur in the opinion that Portland should be made the great naval depot of the United States on the Atlantic ocean. Its geographical position commands Canada on the north, and the lower provinces on the east, if properly fortified, as lines of railway, completed or in process of construction, radiate from it to Quebec and Montreal, and to St. John and Halifax.

The harbor is one of the finest on the Atlantic ocean, or in the world, and can easily be so fortified as to be as impregnable as Gibraltar, and far stronger than Quebec, Sebastopol, or Cherbourg.

Halifax harbor, the great British naval depot on the American continent, now occupied by the combined fleets of England and France, closes the outlet of the great gulf lying between Cape Cod and Cape Sable, and unless Portland is defended, the whole peninsula east of Lake Champlain is easily subjected to foreign control.

If Great Britain held the harbor of Portland and the line of railway to Montreal and Quebec, she would drive American commerce from the ocean and the great lakes.

The strategetic importance of Portland is shown by reference to any general map of the whole country, and its capabilities for defence are exhibited by the charts of the United States coast survey of 1859.

Portland harbor is an arm of the sea, formed by five outlying islands, that shut out the swell of the ocean.

The main or great ship channel is only one hundred and seventy rods in width, carrying from eight to ten fathoms at low water, inside Bangs island.

This island is the natural fortress that defends the approach to the harbor; its outside shore line, extending over one mile in a nearly straight line, rises about eighty feet above the level of the sea.

The distance from this outer shore wall of the island is less than *three miles* from the densely populated portion of the peninsula on which the city is built.

Behind this natural fortress, ships of war may lie in deep water and shell the city, entirely protected from the guns of Fort Preble, Fort Scammel, or Fort Gorges.

In point of fact, the present forts are of very little, if any, value in defending the city from guns of long range used in modern warfare.

Bangs island contains two hundred and twenty acres. By fortifying this island all possible approach to Portland by water with large ships is cut off.

In that event, no holding ground or places of anchorage can be found where gunboats can reach the city without coming within range of the guns of its fort, or those of Fort Gorges.

By making Bangs island a fortress, Fort Gorges may be advantageously changed into a water-battery, with only one tier of guns, and the expense of the proposed casement battery saved, and thereby Portland would become impregnable by water.

The town itself is situated on a high peninsula, once an island two and a half miles in length and averaging three-fourths of a mile in width, around which still sweep the tide-waters of Casco Bay, approaching within a few rods from opposite sides.

A ditch of a few rods length will change this peninsula into an island, and secure a flow of the tide completely around the city. The land rises more or less abruptly on all sides from the water, reaching an elevation of 176 feet at the western end, and 161 feet at the eastern end of the peninsula, so that a redoubt at each end of the city overlooking this moat or ditch, and commanding the approaches by land, or across Back bay, will prevent all approach to the city. No land rises so high as that of the peninsula of Portland, within ten miles. One-tenth of the expense of fortifying Sebastopol or Cherbourg would make Portland one of the strongest fortresses of the world.

As a harbor of refuge that of Portland is unrivalled, and the approach of a storm is foreshadowed by a movement of vessels in that direction.

Between five and six hundred sail have been known to enter Portland harbor for shelter in a single night, and six hundred sail can be often counted, on a clear morning, standing out to sea after an easterly storm.

The first intimation of trouble with any leading foreign power would be the entrance of a hostile fleet into Portland harbor.

The embarkation of the Prince of Wales, on the 20th of October, 1860, illustrated the facility with which five men-of-war, some of them ships of the largest size, may enter or depart from this secure anchorage. The whole British navy can lie as easily in Portland harbor as in a dock at Woolwich.

An enemy in possession of Portland would find it to be the terminus of the longest line of railroad in the world. The Grand Trunk railway of Canada embraces a line of 1,131 miles, of which 1,096 miles are in actual operation.

It extends from the Atlantic ocean at Portland to Lake Huron, a distance of 794 miles, with a branch to Detroit of 59 miles, a branch to Quebec of 96 miles, and to the River du Loup of 118 miles; making, with all its branches, 1,096 miles.

This line has the capacity to move 10,000 troops between Portland and Quebec or Toronto and Detroit in a single day.

At Portland commences the line of the European and North American railway, to extend through the cities of Bangor and St. John to Halifax, a distance of 576 miles, of which 300 miles are in actual operation, with 63½ miles more of branch lines, viz: In Maine, 138 miles; in branches, 26½ miles; in New Brunswick, 101 miles; in branches, 7 miles; in Nova Scotia, 61; in branches, 30.

Arrangements, it is understood, can now be made by which this railway may be opened to Halifax at an early day.

Without it the complete defence of our coast would be impossible, for the British fleet, holding command of the ocean, would prevent any attack on the lower provinces by water. Holding Halifax, the line to Quebec, by the St. John valley, would be kept open, and an overwhelming force could be thrown into New Brunswick, Canada, or Maine at any moment.

Navy yards, dock yards, repair shops, and naval schools, should be located inside of defensible harbors. By the proposed fortification of Portland, making Bangs Island a fortress, the most ample space is afforded for all possible naval purposes, on the main land or on the other islands of the harbor, without interfering with the legitimate business of the city.

Many other places in Maine, among which may be mentioned the navy yard at Kittery, the mouth of the Saco river, Mount Desert harbor, and Machias, will deserve the attention of the agents of the government who may be appointed to superintend and conduct the prosecution of the defences of this State.

Before making the expenditures proposed, to put "our ports and harbors in a condition of complete defence," I shall wait the instructions your excellency may be pleased to give; and for the purpose of that conference with the federal government which the letter of the Secretary of State suggests, I have appointed Hannibal Hamlin, Ruel Williams, and John A. Poor, distinguished citizens of this State, whose intimate knowledge of the matters in question will entitle their opinions to great weight with the Executive, commissioners to confer, on the part of the State, with the authorities at Washington, in respect to the system of defence to be adopted and the manner of its execution.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, your excellency's obedient servant,

Israel Washburn, Jr.

Meeting of the City Council.

Augusta, Dec. 28, 1861.

Present Alderman Patterson, Atkins, Fogg and Pettengill. The Mayor being absent, Alderman Pettengill was chosen President pro tem.

A quorum present in the Common Council.

The tenth monthly report of the City Marshal was allowed.

The fourth quarterly report of the Treasurer of the Augusta Free Bridge Company was ordered on file, as follows:

1861. The Company have paid

Sept. 13.	Int. 6 mos. on 2 Co. notes,	$30	00
" 16.	" " " 1 " note,	15	00
" 18.	" " " 1 " "	15	00
" 25.	" " " 1 " "	15	00
" 30.	Kincaid's bill,	13	29
" "	" 3 months' salary,	200	00
Oct. 3.	Int. 6 mos. on 1 Co. note,	15	00
" 7.	Gas bill,	23	60
" 10.	Co. note and int. to J. W. Patterson,	515	00
" 17.	Int. 6 mos. on 2 Co. notes,	30	00
" 29.	" " " 3 " "	45	00
Nov. 1.	" " " 2 " "	30	00
" 14.	" " " 1 " note,	15	00
" 15.	" Coupons No. 2 to 30, city note,	450	00
	Balance cash in treasury,	106	00
		$1533	52
Quarter's receipts from tolls, $1528 21			
Cash in treas'y, as per 3d report, 5 31			
		$1533	52

Report of the Committee on New Streets, on the petition of J. M. Potter and others, that they had laid out or extended School Street two hundred feet by the land of said Potter, as prayed for, was accepted, and the street established as laid out.

The committee to whom was referred the petition of James Proctor, for damage sustained by reason of alleged defect in the highway on the east slope of Bolton Hill, reported that they have met Mr. Proctor and have agreed with him to refer the matter to Charles Danforth of Gardiner, Warren Perceival of Vassalboro', and David Malcolm of China, and recommend that the City Council authorize some one to sign the necessary submission in behalf of the city. Accepted.

Ordered, That the City Solicitor, James W. North, be authorized, in behalf of the city, to sign the same.

The Committee on Highways, to whom was referred the petition of Charles Greenlief and others for side-walks and sign-boards on all the principal streets on Sand Hill, reported that the same be referred to the next City Council, on account of the lateness in the season for making such repairs, the empty state of the city treasury, the very large amount of repairs prayed for, and the tolerable good condition of the present side-walks on Sand Hill. Accepted.

Roll of accounts No. 8 was accepted, and payment ordered for $50,78.

Petition of J. B. Hartford for damages to land, referred to Committee on Highways.

Ordered, That the City Treasurer be authorized to hire a sum of money not exceeding $5000, and give notes therefor, payable July 6th next, to meet the liabilities for the current year, in anticipation of taxes uncollected.

Ordered, That the following appropriations be made, viz:

To build new road to Mahala Getchell's,	$37 00
To build extension of School Street,	15 00
For repairs of highways,	600 00
Additional police expenses,	200 00

Ordered, That there be a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen Jan. 9 next, to revise the list of jurors.

Miss Emma Hardinge. This lady, known as an eminent spiritual medium, gave two addresses at Meonian Hall on Thursday and Friday evenings last. The subjects discussed were The utility of spirit communications, and The influence exerted by the present civil war upon the progress of humanity and civilization. Whatever may have been the convictions of those present in regard to the opinions advanced by the speaker, there was evidently no division of sentiment in regard to the exalted intellectual character of the discourses themselves. We have never listened to a speaker of either sex who united more harmoniously and effectively, the gift of profound and logical thought, with rare elocutionary grace and power. The lectures were well attended, and on behalf of those present we would gratefully express our acknowledgements to the gentlemen who procurred for them so rare an intellectual entertainment. We hope Miss Hardinge may be induced to visit Augusta again during the present winter.

The World's Fair. The Portland *Advertiser* states that S. L. Goodale, Esq., of Saco, has been appointed Special Agent for this State, to examine the articles proposed to be exhibited at the London World's Fair in 1862, and approve them, if in accordance with the regulations already published in our columns. Articles, approved if intended to be forwarded to London by the American Commissioners (in case a vessel is placed at their disposal by the Government,) must be delivered, *free of charges*, to the Atlantic Dock Stores, Brooklyn; or to Mr. Joseph E. Holmes, Agent, for the American Commissioners (61 Canal Street,) in New York, on or before the 10th day of January, 1862.

Look to your Understandings. In these slippery times it behooves us to remember the injunction, "Let him who thinketh he standeth take heed lest he tumble down." It is a beneficent arrangement of Providence that no want is experienced in the world without ample provision being made for its supply, and we take this occasion to commend those of our readers who may need a comfortable covering for their feet, to the assortment of over-shoes of every description, kept by our friend Erastus Haskell, on Water Street. He will take a benevolent pleasure in furnishing them with any thing in his line of business—for a reasonable consideration.

Oysters. On Christmas day the entire editorial fraternity of Maine were enabled to diversify their usual lenten fare by a liberal supply of oysters from the celebrated establishment of Mr. James Freeman of Portland. Participating with the rest of our brethren in the timely and thoughtful benefaction, we desire to unite with them in ascriptions of thankfulness to the generous-hearted donor, and to invoke for him the profitable "remembrance" by the army of oyster-eaters, which is promised to the "cheerful giver." So mote it be.

Letters from the 7th Regiment---No. 11.

Camp Griffin, Va., 3d Brig, Smith's Division, Dec. 25, 1861.

Dear Farmer:—Though through the press of other matters, I have been unable to perform the pleasing task of writing to the *Farmer*, I cannot refrain from stealing a moment this pleasant Christmas eve to trace a few hurried lines concerning our welfare.

First, I must notice the communication "signed by thirty-three members of the 7th regiment;" *grumblers*, I must call them. It is foolish nonsense to think that the men *have* to spend nearly half their wages at the sutler's tent for food! I know privates who send home nearly all their wages, and *do not spend anything for food*, and yet they are rugged, contented and ready for duty as any others.

Nearly all who spend their money at the sutler's, spend it for *luxuries*, and not for *food*; Butter, sugar, figs, apples, cheese, &c., to say nothing of oysters, preserved articles and other extravagancies *which they never get at home*, take off the money which they are *obliged* to spend!

We have always had enough to eat! It is true a few times we have had to come down to rather simple diet—salt beef and hard bread—and for some time after coming here, hard bread was our only bread, while other regiments in our brigade were feasting on "soft tack." This was rather hard for the boys, but we always had enough of it, together with good wholesome beef. Now we have new soft bread every day. For myself, I have grown fat on the regimental fare; though I will not say that I have never thought of the well-loaded tables of the down-east farmhouses with something of a longing to be there.

As for the sutler's tents, I consider them a nuisance that ought to be abated. The enormous prices which they charge for everything, and the tempting display of luxuries which they offer, affords a channel down which $13 a month will glide almost imperceptibly—to say nothing of the probability of their keeping liquor to furnish officers and men.

The health of the regiment is improving rapidly—doubtless everything being done that is practicable to remove the causes of disease—though I think many who are entitled to a discharge on account of a disability, are retained here by some of the endless complications of red tape at Washington.

When men have become totally disabled, what is the use to keep them here to suffer or to drag out a miserable existence at best—a source of constant annoyance and depression and an expense to the government.

There have been no drills to-day, as it was Christmas; but still we have had duties to perform. This eve the bands of the Brigade have been giving us some delightful airs. We hear that they are soon to leave us, and we shall miss their sweet strains.

We are languishing for an advance. Nothing will turn out our regiment so quickly as the "long roll," and every man that can walk will spring to his place in the ranks.

Gen. Lane's speech in the Senate delighted our boys, and they hail as a good omen his appointment to a Major Generalship. C.

Anecdotes of the Maine Boys. A letter from our correspondent "C.," of the Maine 7th, dated Dec. 17th has just come to hand. Most of the matters alluded to are slightly "behind the times," but we copy a couple of good things told by him, which we think will "keep:"

"The picket now is one of the most arduous duties we have to perform. We have to send them out every three days, two hundred and ten men at a time. Our boys like the duty very well, and are always ready for it, and even anxious to go. A few days since Gen. Hancock was visiting the outposts, and questioning the men in regard to their duties while on guard. He rode up to one of our boys who was standing at his post, and asked him what he would do if he should see a party of rebels advancing on him? "I should fire at them," replied the down-easter. "If they should continue to advance?" "I should fire again." "And if they should still advance and come right upon you?" "I should charge bayonets on them!" The General put spurs to his horse and rode away, probably satisfied that the down-easter "knew his biz." Another of the boys told the General that he should fire his rifle, and then run and halloo, "Corporal of the Guard, turn out the regiment!"

Gen. H. says of the Sixth Maine boys, who are in his Brigade, that they are the most independent, dare-devil set in the service. He says you may put the Wisconsin regiment out just as far beyond the pickets as they dare go, then send the Michigan regiment as far beyond them as they will venture, and may go yourself as far in advance of all as pru lence will admit of, then climb a tree, and you will see some of the Sixth boys far in advance in a corn-field, stealing corn, without arms of any kind, and when you order them back they will not go till they get five or six ears more!"

The Release of Slidell and Mason. It is stated that the decision of the President in the affair of the Trent, has the approval of every member of the Cabinet. There is a general acquiescence among the men of all parties at Washington in the course of the government, and the despatches of Mr. Seward on the subject are viewed in the light of the highest statesmanlike ability. The *National Intelligencer* says:

"Whatever may be the disappointment of any at the result to which the Admistration has come in settling a question constitutionally devolved upon the Executive branch of the government, we are sure all will applaud the firmness and sincerity in which the Administration, resisting a natural tendency suppressed by the conceited drift of public opinion in our own country, has resolved to do what it believes to be right in the premise, and it surely should give cause to all who may be disposed to challenge the propriety of the resolution to which the administration has come, when they note that a contrary decision could leave us in opposition not only to the views of Great Britain, but also to those which the Government of France has expressed respecting the principles of public law involved in this transaction."

The *Intelligencer* says in conclusion: "Whatever, therefore, may be said by any in the way of exception to the extreme terms of the demand made by the British in the case of the Trent, it is at least just to admit that the case has been so adjusted by our government as to subserve, we hope, the great cause of neutral rights against the assumptions heretofore asserted by England, but now repudiated by that power in common with France and the United States.

The law of nations, as traditionally interpreted by our Government, has received a new sanction though at the cost, it may be, of some national sensibilities waked into disproportionate activity by the temporary exacerbations of our civil feuds. The latter, let us remember, are but for a day.—The law of nations is for all time."

Death of a Printer. The Bangor *Times* states that Wm. Bartlett, an employee in that office was found dead in the snow near his residence on Wednesday last, having perished in the storm of the preceding night while endeavoring to reach his home. The *Times* says:

"Mr Bartlett was an accomplished printer, and for several years was proprietor and editor of the *Daily Mercury*, prior to 1850, the editorials of which were characterized by brevity and sharpness. He was his own worst enemy, but possessed qualities deserving a better fate. This brief and sad obituary is set from the very case which the deceased distributed yesterday afternoon."

☞ In addressing letters to soldiers at Port Royal, S. C., it is only necessary to designate the regiment and company. There is a regular Post Office established at that place, and under the management of the United States Government, mails are made up at the New York office and forwarded direct by every opportunity.

Suicide. The Anson *Advocate* states that Mr. Jonathan Wilson of that town, aged about 60 years, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor on Friday 20th ult. He was a poor man and gave as a reason for the act, that he had no home and was tired of living.

Latest Telegraphic News.

Suspension of Specie Payment by the Banks.

HOW MASON AND SLIDEL ARE TO BE SENT TO ENGLAND.

RECONNOISSANCE NEAR CHARLESTON.

BATTLE GOING ON AT PUDUCAH, Ky.

PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED.

New York, Dec. 30th. The New York banks suspend specie payment this morning. They decided to do so at a late hour Saturday night. The final vote was 25 to 15 for suspension.

The banks of Philadelphia and Boston, and generally throughout New England and Middle States, and the West, are reported as suspending.

Cincinnati, 30th. The surrender of Mason and Slidell, and the suspension of specie payment by the New York banks, have caused a feeling of great relief in business circles.

New York, 30th. The *World's* despatch says the manner in which Mason and Slidell are to be given up has been left to Lord Lyons, who will doubtless have it done in a manner least offensive to this Government.

Boston, 30th. It is by no means certain that the Niagara will be despatched to Liverpool with Mason and Slidell. The agents deny that they have instructions to that effect.

New York, 30. Capt. James De Camp of Morristown, N. J., left in the Quaker City last week to supersede Capt. Palmer, now in command of the U. S. steamer Iroquois.

Port Royal letters state that another important gunboat reconnoissance has been made which pushed within 15 miles of Charleston, to a town called Rockwell, where a force of 400 rebels was found, who fled in a panic when the inferior force of our men was landed.

Washington, Dec. 30. Commander Davis, of the stone fleet has made his official report of the sinking of sixteen ships on Charleston Bar. The details have all been published heretofore, from which the official report does not vary.

Great credit is given Acting Masters Bradbury and Godfrey for services rendered Commander Davis on the expedition.

St. Louis, Dec. 30. Yesterday, 2460 cavalry under Col. Carr, left Rolla, with 15 days' rations, supposed for Springfield by a circuitous route.

Chicago, 30. The Cairo operator says a battle is going on at Paducah to-day, but the Adjutant General refuses to allow any report to be sent.

Fortress Monroe, Dec. 29. A note from Gen. Huger to Gen. Wool announces that he is ready to start 240 prisoners down James River from Richmond whenever they will be received. Gen. Wool will send a flag of truce to meet them Thursday or Friday. No list of those to be released has yet been received.

It will rejoice the friends of Col. Corcoran and other gallant officers held as hostages by the rebels, to know that on the suggestion of Mr. Faulkner, their prison will be rendered more comfortable.

Letters received by Mr. Ely from prisoners sent to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, indicate that they are comfortable. None of the prisoners at Richmond, Charleston or Tuscaloosa, suffered much from heat during the summer.

Narrative of Lt. Hurd. The telegraph despatches communicates the fact of the return of Lt. Samuel D. Hurd of Bangor, belonging to the 2d Maine regiment. He was wounded at the battle of Bull Run and taken prisoner and conveyed to Richmond, and afterwards sent to Charleston, where with three hundred other prisoners he was confined in the jail of that city at the time of the recent terrible conflagration. During the fire the jail was burnt and the prisoners making their escape by jumping from a small window, the only one which was not barred. Lt. Hurd left Charleston on the 12th of December.

Since the above was put in type, a later issue of the New York *Times* stamps the pretended statement of Lt. Hurd as an unmitigated humbug. That paper says:

"The Union prisoners, according to previous reports, were confined in the new prison, which was not within the district destroyed by the fire; and it certainly does not seem likely that three or four hundred of them would be left in an open room, from which they could so easily make their escape as they were represented to have done in this narrative. We have hitherto understood, also, that it was not the wounded among our prisoners who were removed to Charleston, but those who were best able to bear the removal. There are other features of the case which incline to the belief that Hurd was indulging in some flights of fancy in the report which he made of his adventures in Charleston, and that he had really been no further South than Richmond.

New Map of Maine. The new map of Maine, by J. Chace, Portland, is nearly ready for issue. It will be the most accurate and complete map that can be issued, Mr. Chace's county surveys having been very thorough and minute. Accompanying the map, every patron of the work will be furnished with a hands

summarily dealt with under Gen. Halleck's stringent orders.

It is confidently expected that our moving columns will effectually, in a few days break up bridge burning in North Missouri, as the rebellion has been crushed south of the river. No mercy will be shown to the scoundrels. General Halleck's emphatic orders, with reference to all bridge burners, are to shoot down every one making the attempt.

Consternation in the Rebel Camp.

OTTERVILLE, Mo., Dec. 27. A prisoner who escaped from the rebel camp at Hermansville last Saturday, reports that when the news that Gen. Hope's cavalry had driven in Gen. Rains' picket at Johnstown, was received by Gen. Price's army, the greatest consternation pervaded the rebel camp.

The cavalry, artillery, infantry, and raw, ragged and unarmed recruits were mixed up in inextricable confusion, and many hours elapsed before anything like order could be restored. The retreat of the whole army commenced as soon afterward as possible, and so fearful were they of pursuit that they burned bridges and placed every obstruction in the way of the fancied pursuit. Even the celebrated bridge built by Gen. Fremont across the Osage at Warsaw was not spared by the flying rebels.

The last report from Price is that he passed through Springfield *en route* for Arkansas, and it is pretty certain that he will not attempt to return this winter.

Reconnoissance at Drainsville.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. The *Herald's* Washington dispatch says that a scouting party was sent out to-day in the direction of Drainsville. They report about 13,000 rebel troops in that vicinity.

Bridge Burners Killed and Captured.

The *Times* Washington dispatch say that a dispatch has been received from Gen. Halleck to-day announcing that Col. Bishop's department overtook a party of the bridge burners of North Missouri Railroad on Monday, and killed ten and took seventeen prisoners and thirty horses. Gen. Halleck also says that the damage to the Railroads will be repaired in three days.

Recapture of Federal Forts in New Mexico.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. Judge Arny has just arrived from New Mexico, bringing dispatches from New Mexico to the government. He reports a strong Union feeling in the Territory.

Col. Canby, in command of the Military Department of New Mexico, has retaken Fort Craig and Stanton on the Mesilla border, driving the Texans away, and was at the latest dates en route for Fort Fillimore to dispossess the enemy there, that Post having been traitorously surrendered by Col. Lynde to an inferior force of Texans. From there he intends marching to Arizona to drive off the rebels. Having a sufficient force there can be no doubt of his success.

The Rebels fear that Mason and Slidell will be Given up.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. The Richmond *Examiner* of Tuesday greatly fears the United States will surrender Mason and Slidell to the British authorities, saying it will submit to a shame yet to be recorded in the annals of the history of any nation, rather than disturb the infernal purpose to grind into the earth the libertics of the South. By the abject submission to the demand the United States may avert, but only for a while, a war with Great Britain.

Fenwick Island Occupied.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. A letter from Port Royal reports the occupation of Fenwick Island by our troops, extending our lines to South Edisto river, thirty-five miles from Charleston.

Arrival Home of Congressman Ely.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. Congressman Ely brings a list of 2700 prisoners. He states that there is no doubt of an extended and deep Union feeling in Richmond, and if the national army were within ten miles of Richmond our old flag would be hung out from hundreds of windows there, but at present there is a perfect reign of terror.

Lieut. Hurd a Humbug.

The *Times'* dispatch states that Lieut. Hurd of the 24 Maine regiment, who reported the escape of himself and Col. Corcoran from Charleston, is believed to be a big humbug.

Movements in Kentucky.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 27. A dispatch dated Nashville 25th, says that Tom Crittenden with 12,000 men, was within 40 miles of Hopkinsville, and would advance upon that place at three points. The Southern rights citizens were sending their families and stock to the South.

The banking house at Glacow, a branch of the Northern Bank of Kentucky, was taken possession of by the rebels on the 24th. Only $7000 in Kentucky bills were found.

John G. Davis, a member of the Federal Congress from the Seventh District of Indiana, has arrived at Hopkinsville on his way to Richmond, but for what purpose it is not stated.

A force of not less than 60,000 men, the advance of Gen. Buell's army, has crossed Green River and are within five miles of General Hindman's advance. Great preparations have been made for the defense of Bowling Green, and a terrible conflict is impending.

Affairs on the Potomac.

WASHINGTON, 29th. Gen. McDowell's division was reviewed yesterday at Ball's Cross Roads, after which the troops had a sham battle, having taken positions as if in an actual engagement.

The army officers all say that our troops have remarkably improved in dicipline.

The *Times'* special Washington dispatch says that a foraging expedition of five regiments, on Friday, brought in 80 loads of forage, and on Saturday, 70 more, from the neighborhood of Fairfax Court House.

Another Fight in Missouri.

PALMYRA, Mo., 28th. Yesterday Gen. Prentiss, with 450 men, encountered and dispersed 900 rebels under Col. Dorsey, at Mt. Ziva, Bone county, killing and wounding 150 and capturing 35 prisoners, 95 horses and 105 guns. Our loss was only three killed and 11 wounded.

The rebels burned another train on the North Missouri Railroad yesterday, and they say that they intend to destroy all the cars on the road so as to prevent its being used.

Later from Port Royal.

The steamer Empire City, from Beaufort the 24th and Port Royal the 25th, arrived this A. M. She came out of Port Royal by the southeast channel, which has been buoyed and has not less than 30 feet of water in it.

The 79th regiment made a reconnoisance of 15 miles from Beaufort, capturing 6 rebels.

Our troops are still building entrenchments on Tybee Island, while Fort Pulaski kept up a continual fire on them without damage.

A rebel boat came down Warsaw channel on the 23d, from Savannah, reconnoitering, to see if the way was clear for the English steamer Fingal to get out with her cargo of cotton. The boat being chased by a gunboat, was run ashore, her crew escaping to the woods, except two, who were put on board the Wabash.

CHARLESTON, 27th. The Courier of this morning states that some Yankee gunboats exchanged a few shots with the Cole Island Battery, yesterday.

A despatch from Charleston also states that a Federal fleet of 12 gunboats had passed up to White Point, on the North Edisto, and made a demonstration on Gen. Evans's forces. Reinforcements were sent to Gen. Evans, and battle is expected.

Demonstrations had also been made at other points.

On the Watch for Privateers.

NEW YORK, 28th. The British steamer Karnak, from Nassau, N. P., Dec. 23d, arrived here this evening. The rebel steamers Isabel and Gordon were in port, closely watched by the U. S. steamer Flambeau.

CHARLESTON HARBOR DESTROYED. The Stone-Fleet Expedition arrived off Charleston on Friday last, and the work of obstructing the channels, by sinking old vessels, was immediately commenced. The rebels had blown up the lighthouse, in the hope of obstructing the work, but that was rather a help than otherwise, and they had the melancholy satisfaction of watching, from the battlements of Sumter and Moultrie, the deliberate destruction of their port. Now and then a gun was fired by them, but none of our vessels were within their reach. Sixteen hulks, all heavily laden with stone, were sunk in the various channels in such a manner as to effectually prevent the entrance of any vessel, and unless some new channel be made by the water—an event almost beyond the pale of possibility—the port of Charleston may be counted among the things that were. The sinking of the vessels was intrusted to Capt. Chas. A. Davis, who, as chief of a hydrographic party in the Coast Survey, had made himself thoroughly familiar with that portion of the seaboard.

CONVICTED OF MURDER. Charles M. Jefferds has been convicted of the murder of John Walton and John W. Mathews. The evidence developed on the trial shows the prisoner in the character of a professional assassin, murdering for hire, and encouraged by success, offering to add a third to the list of his victims. Young, manly-looking and sprightly, his very appearance weighed more in his favor than the most eloquent argument of his counsel could do, and the jury almost wept as they pronounced him guilty.

Congressional Proceedings.

TUESDAY, Dec. 24.

SENATE. Several petitions were presented for the emancipation of slaves, with compensation for those with loyal masters.

Mr. Grimes offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Naval Affairs to inquire into the manner which war vessels have been fitted out. He had heard rumors of great extravagance in the navy yards in this respect. The resolution was agreed to.

The Senate then went into executive session, after which, adjourned till Thursday.

THURSDAY, Dec. 26.

SENATE. On motion of Mr. Hale it was agreed that when the Senate adjourn to-day it be to Monday next, and when the Senate meet on that day it adjourn to next Thursday.

Mr. Grimes presented a petition from the citizens of Iowa for the introduction of the homeopathic system and practice in the army.

Mr. Hale offered a resolution that the President be requested, if not incompatible with the public interests, to transmit copies of all dispatches which passed between this government and Great Britain relative to the seizure of Mason and Slidell, said dispatches to be communicated either in open or executive session as may be deemed proper.

Mr. Sumner objected.

Mr. Hale said that he had understood from the public press and those who held more intimate relations with the administration than himself, though the absence of this intimacy was not his fault, as he was willing to be as confidential as anybody, that for three or four days past the Cabinet had under consideration a proposition fraught with more evil to the country than anything that yet marked its history, and that was the surrender of Mason and Slidell to Great Britain. By this we would yield all that we had gained in the Revolution, and be humiliated to a second rate power. No man would go further than himself for peace, but he would not submit to national disgrace and dishonor to obtain such peace. He would favor the arbitration of another power, but if a demand has been made by Great Britain for the surrender of Mason and Slidell, war should be declared instanter. He would make all honorable concessions for peace, but a peace involving such surrender would be infinitely worse than war. His friend from Indiana, Mr. Lane, remarked this morning that his State had now sixty thousand men in the field and would double that number to maintain the national honor. If this Senate should go home after such surrender and humiliation it would be subjected to the scorn and indignation of the country.

He regarded the arrogant demand of England as a pretext for war. She was determined to humiliate us first and fight us afterward. Let our cities and villages be pillaged and burned, but let our national honor be preserved. Francis First said after the battle of Pavia "that all was lost but honor."

He would pray that this administration might not sacrifice our national honor. Thousands would yet come to the field to defend it. If this surrender was made the administration would meet with such a fire in the rear that it would be buried from its power. If we had war with England it would be for the same cause that had sent one King to the block, and another homeless and houseless over the world, and one that would appeal to men wherever the English language was spoken.

He believed, too, that if Napoleon had one desire more than another, it was to wipe out the stain of the French arms at Waterloo All over Canada there were thousands of Irishmen who would rush to arms to sustain such a cause.

Our principle was one of great strength, and if war must come he would say let it come, and thank God that we were the instruments in his hands to work out his own cause.

Mr. Sumner said that the Senator had made a speech—a war speech, it might be termed. For himself, he had rather consider this grave and important question when it was presented in practical form. The Senator had treated the whole matter on hypothesis. He had said that Great Britain had made an arrogant demand of this government. How did the Senator know this, or the Senate, or the country? He did not know it. The Senator had said he would favor an arbitration. How did he know but what the administration had considered that if Senator was too swift in their conclusions. His own belief was that it would be better for the Senate to reserve themselves for facts, and not act upon a hypothetical case.

The resolution of Mr. Hale was then laid over under rule.

Mr. Davis gave notice that he should introduce a bill for confiscating every species of property of all persons who had any connection with the Southern rebellion either in a civil, military or naval capacity.

Mr. Harlan introduced a bill for establishing provisional governments in the seceded States. Referred.

Mr. Howe introduced a bill amending the Fugitive Slave act. Referred. Adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE. The House met at noon to-day, but a quorum not being present no business was transacted. Adjourned to Monday.

MONDAY, Dec. 30.

SENATE. Petitions were presented by Senators Sumner and Foster for a law abolishing slavery in all the States.

A communication was received from the Secretary of of War in reply to a resolution of the Senate, stating that it is incompatible with the public interest to furnish the correspondence between Gens Scott and Patterson.

HOUSE. Mr. Potter of Wisconsin reported the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to furnish, without unnecessary delay, to the Select Committee instructed to inquire into alleged disloyalty of Government employees, the information asked for by the latter of the 3d inst., addressed by the Chairman of the Committee to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Potter also reported a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Interior to similarly respond. He said it was necessary that the select committee should have this information, in order to make their report. Also to ascertain whether departments have removed those who have been reported to them as disloyal; if such persons have been removed, the departments would have a chance to furnish the reasons.

Debate followed, during which Mr. Wickliffe said if we have heads of departments who are not competent to judge of the qualifications or loyalty of their subordinates, we should strike at and remove them.

Mr. Mallory of Kentucky, objected to the introduction of the second resolution, which was consequently not read for consideration.

Adjourned until Thursday.

A GRAND IMPENDING MOVEMENT. The signs of the times indicate a grand concentrated onward movement of our forces by sea and land. The N. Y. *World* who is regarded as pretty good authority insists, notwithstanding the apparent delays, that we are on the eve of great developments. It remarks that there is to be no hibernating, no yielding to the inclemency of the winter, but this season will in all probability witness the decisive blows against the rebellion. The movement, when undertaken, will undoubtedly embrace every command between the Atlantic and the Mississippi; and will sweep forward with such combinations of power that, even though it may experience a check here and there, the general effect must be overwhelming. In all probability, too, simultaneous movements will be made from the southern coasts against the most important cities. There are not troops enough in the "confederacy" to withstand any such inroad upon all sides. Hitherto the government has realized but very little advantage from its larger resources in men. Hardly an engagement has occurred in which the rebels have not outnumbered the force opposed to them. They have almost uniformly managed to avoid battle unless this superiority was first assured; and they owe their few successes thus far to their skill in carrying out that policy. But with a combined federal movement, this system of operation will no longer serve them. Stratagem will be powerless. It will then be a question merely of the preponderance of effective soldiery, and *materiel* of war, as directed upon the broadest scale.

PORTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. The following officers were elected at the recent annual meeting of the above-named Society:

William Wood, President.
Henry Willis, Vice President.
Lewis Pierce, Corresponding Secretary.
Charles W. Oleson, Recording Secretary.
Edward Gould, Treasurer.
Charles B. Fuller, Cabinet Keeper.
Associate Managers—J. W. Chickering, T. C. Hersey, Alexander Burgess, S. B. Beckett, John Neal, J. T. McCobb, Edward H. Elwell.

☞ Mr. Andrew Wetherbee, of Gorham, while chopping wood on his lot last Monday, cut his knee with his axe. He kept about his work until noon, and on his arrival home, sat down and sewed some thirteen stitches in the wound. No medical aid was called until Friday morning, when it was too late to save his life. Erysipelas caused his death.

A GOOD PRIZE. The British Bark Empress, from Rio Janeiro, with 6185 bags of coffee was captured off Pass a l'Outre, recently while attempting to get in at night, but got ashore, when she was boarded from the United States frigate Mississippi.

☞ The Aroostook *Herald* states that the wife of J. W. Haines, Esq., of Presque Isle, who has been spending some time in Boston, was suddenly and violently stricken with insanity a few days ago, and is now a patient in the City Hospital at South Boston.

☞ The wife of Mr. Wm. H. Vose, of Sebec, was accidentally drowned on the 10th inst., by falling into a cistern in the cellar of the house. She was the daughter of the late Wm. Pitcher of Belfast, and leaves a family of seven children.

☞ Gen. Cochrane of Rockland, has now employed in the tent making business, upwards of 1500 men.

☞ The census returns of New Brunswick foot up 250,000, an increase of 30 per cent in the last ten years.

☞ Joseph W. Ellis, M. D., of Augusta has received a patent for an improvement in tent ventilation.

Foreign News.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

SENTIMENT OF THE EUROPEAN PRESS.

Continued Military Activity in England.

ANOTHER VERSION OF THE TRENT AFFAIR.

Illness and Death of Prince Albert.

The steamer Niagara from Liverpool 14th and Queenstown 15th, arrived at Halifax Dec. 26th.

The Niagara has 20,000 pounds in specie, twenty-four passengers for Boston, and three hundred and fifty-one troops for Halifax.

The Australasian, which left Liverpool with 1265 troops, a field battery, and large quantities of ammunition, stores, sledges, &c., for North America, also arrived at Halifax this afternoon.

England. The British war vessel Cadmus had arrived off St. Thomas, to protect vessels against another Trent affair.

The attitude of and preparations by England shows no change.

The *Times* editorially reports the following story: "During the visit of the Prince of Wales to America, Mr. Seward took advantage of an entertainment given to the Prince to tell the Duke of Newcastle that he was likely to occupy a high office, and that when he did so it would become his duty to insult England, and he should insult her accordingly."

The *Times* accumulates evidence of a long cherished intention on the part of Mr. Seward to do England an injury.

Gen. Scott's sudden return home was the theme of much speculation. It is generally reported that he had some sort of a mission from the French Government to the Washington Cabinet. The London *Herald's* Paris correspondent says he had a long interview with M. Thouvenal, the French Foreign Minister, before his departure. The general impression in the financial circles of London was that he carried out a momentous communication from the French Government.

It is estimated that about 12,000 troops are to be sent to Canada, who will be ready to take the field immediately on landing.

Government continued to charter available steamers.

Orders have been issued for the hasty manufacture of 2000 packed saddles and a proportionate number of ambulance wagons and carts, to be sent to Canada.

The Paris correspondent of the *Post* asserts that peaceful anticipations prevailed among Americans in Paris and says that Minister Dayton and Consul Bigelow used all their influence, combined with that of Gen. Scott, to inspire conciliatory counsels at Washington. He asserts that France desires peace between England and America. The same writer also says, in reference to Gen. Scott's return, it is not impossible that France, if asked, may become a mediator, and at the same time the law relating to neutrals be revised, providing England in accordance with the wishes of other European governments, agrees to a modification of the existing code.

The Paris *Press* says Gen. Scott's mission appears to have been arranged so as to allow him time to fulfill it before the ultimatum of England is transmitted to the Federal Government, and perhaps to modify the nature of this step on the part of England.

The *Times* publishes a letter from Thurlow Weed, the main object of which is to defend the American government, and Mr. Seward in particular, from the charge of holding hostile intentions toward England. He disclaims, on behalf of Mr. Seward, any unfriendly feelings or intentions toward England, and says that the threat which Mr. Seward made to the Duke of Newcastle was merely idle talk or bandinage. Mr. Wood says he believes if England's dispatch to Lord Lyons is peremptory in tone it will meet with a peremptory refusal. He appeals for moderate counsels on both sides as the only method of avoiding a collision.

No additional orders were issued on the 13th for regiments to be held in readiness. No cavalry or horse artillery will go to Canada before spring. Preparations are represented as on a scale which would have astonished people before the Crimean war.

The Sheffield Foreign Affairs committee had petitioned the government to visit its high displeasure on Captain Meir and Commander Williams for having in the Trent affair violated the Royal proclamation, and thereby show to Americans that England's neutrality is strict and impartial.

Queenstown Dec. 15. The Prince Consort died at Windsor Castle from an attack of gastric fever, which assumed a typhoid character. The first intimation of the Prince's illness was on Tuesday, Dec. 3, when it was stated that he had been suffering from a feverish cold. The first bulletin announced that a quiet night had been passed, but the symptoms had undergone but little change. The bulletins of Friday stated that the symptoms had assumed a more serious form. The bulletin issued at 9 o'clock Saturday night was more favorable. At 4,30 in the afternoon of yesterday a bulletin was issued as follows: "His Royal Highness is in a most critical state." From that hour the symptoms commenced to take a most unfavorable turn, and the fever assumed a form of typhoid.

The Prince sank gradually until the last gleam of hope had departed, and he expired tranquilly at ten minutes to 11 o'clock. The Queen and members of the royal family surrounded his death-bed when he died.

The London *Observer*, in announcing the lamentable event exclaims: "Peace to his ashes! a good husband, a good father, a wise Prince and a safe counsellor. England will not soon look upon his like again."

Italy. The erruption of Vesuvius continued. Houses were falling in Torre del Greco and the village was in imminent danger of destruction by lava. All communication between places in the vicinity of the mountain had been interrupted. Earthquakes were numerous, and in the Bay of Naples the sea had reached 50 metres.

Special Notices.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY,
500 COAT MAKERS.

The subscriber having entered into contracts for the manufacture of

Army and other Clothing,

is desirous of obtaining immediately 500 COAT MAKERS, to whom constant employment will be given and the HIGHEST PRICES PAID.

The business of his establishment will be prosecuted upon the CASH SYSTEM, consequently when the work is delivered the cash will be paid.

His Rooms are what is known as the old Chisam stand, over the Jewelry Store of Edward Rouse, entrance on Commercial street, opposite the Depot.

Augusta, Dec. 1, 1861. G. PULLEN.

N. B. Packages will be sent by rail or stage, to any in the surrounding country who may desire it. 51tf

"How Great a matter a little Fire kindleth."

Who would have though a few years since that the little medicated sugar pills, was to play so conspicuous a part in the great drama of life, but such it is, and to it the actors of the drama are looking for a continuance of that vitality that will enable him to act.

Homeopathy has now grown to such proportions that it overshadows all other systems of medical practice, and since the introduction of Dr. Gifford's Homeopathic Curatives, as a family medicine, which by its simplicity of arrangement, saving of money and curative properties, has won the hearts of all. A complete assortment of all the medicines

Sold by W. F. Kinsman, Augusta; W. T. Phillips, wholesale, Portland, Me.; M. S. Burr & Co., wholesale, Boston, Mass., or sent any where on receipt of price, 25 cts. per box, by Philip Lee, 136 William street, New York.

NOTICE.
DR. A. P. SNOW

Would respectfully inform the people of Winthrop and vicinity, that, after an absence of nearly a year, devoted to the observation and study of Disease in the Hospitals and Schools of Medicine and Surgery, in this Country and Europe, he has returned home and will resume the practice of his Profession. Especial attention will be devoted to the diseases of *childhood*, and those peculiar to *women*.

Dr. S. will be at home to attend to office patients especially, on WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS. The poor, who apply on these days, between the hours of 2 and 4 o'clock P. M. will receive gratuitous advice.

Winthrop, Oct. 22, 1861. 3m45

BATCHELOR'S HAIR DYE,
The best in the World.

W. A. BATCHELOR'S SPLENDID HAIR DYE is the *Original* and only Reliable and Harmless Hair Dye known. Instantaneous in its effect, does not stain the skin, and invigorates the hair for life. Be careful and use none other than the genuine, signed on each side of every box—WILLIAM A. BATCHELOR. Sold by all Respectable Druggists and Fancy Goods Stores everywhere MANUFACTORY NO. 81 BARCLAY ST., (late 16 Bond St., 232 Broad way,) NEW YORK. 1y24

MELVILLE C. KEITH, M. D.
No. 10 Gage St., Weston Cottage, Augusta, Me,

Will pay special attention to long standing cases of Piles, Dyspepsia, Gravel, Diabetes, and those peculiar diseases connected with the urinary organs, and digestive apparatus. In the treatment of these Diseases, Botanic Remedies will be used exclusively, and no minerals *or poisons of any kind* will be used in his Practice. 19tf

MAINE STATE AGRICULT'L SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of the Maine State Agricultural Society will be holden on TUESDAY, January 21, at 10 o'clock, A. M., in rooms of the Board of Agriculture, in the State House; for the choice of officers and the transaction of such other business as may come up. A full attendance of the members is requested.

E. HOLMES, Sec. Me. St. Ag. Soc'y.

Augusta, Jan. 1, 1862. 3w3

A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE MICROSCOPE,

MAGNIFYING small objects 500 times, will be mailed to any address on the receipt of 25 cents in *silver*, and one red stamp Five of *different powers*, free of postage, $1.00. Address

3m44 F. BOWEN, Lock Box 220, Boston, Mass.

GENUINE CEPHALIC PILLS

3m3 SOLD at F. W. KINSMAN'S.

The Markets.

AUGUSTA PRICES CURRENT.
CORRECTED WEEKLY.

Flour,	$6 00 to 8 50	Clear Salt Pork,	9 00 to 11 00
Corn Meal,	80 to 88	Mutton,	6 to 8
Rye Meal,	1 00 to 0 00	Turkeys,	7 to 10
Wheat,	2 00 to 2 00	Chickens,	6 to 10
Rye,	80 to 85	Geese,	7 to 10
Corn,	75 to 80	Clover seed,	10 to 15
Beans,	1 50 to 2 00	Herdsgrass,	2 50 to 2 75
Oats,	40 to 43	Red Top,	75 to 1 75
Potatoes,	25 to 35	Hay,	8 00 to 10 00
Dried Apples,	6 to 8	Lime,	70 to 75
Cooking "	40 to 50	Fleece Wool,	40 to 45
Winter "	67 to 100	Pulled Wool,	40 to 45
Butter	15 to 17	Sheep Skins,	75 to 125
Cheese,	8 to 10	Hides,	5½ to 6
Eggs,	15 to 16	Calf Skins,	7 to 8
Lard,	12 to 13	Lamb Skins,	75 to 100
Round Hog,	$6 00 to 6 50		

BRIGHTON MARKET---Dec. 26.

At market, 900 Beeves, 300 Stores, 1800 Sheep and Lambs and 750 Swine.

PRICES—*Market Beef*—Extra $6.50; first quality $6,25; second do., $6,00; third do. $4,75 @ 5,50.

Working Oxen—$77, 90, 100 @ $130.

Milch Cows—$41 @ $46; common $18 @ $19.

Veal Calves—$3 @ $4,5)

Yearlings—$3 @ $9; two years old $15 @ $17; three years old $18 @ $20.

Hides—6½ @ 7c. *Calf Skins* 7 @ 8c. ℔ lb.

Tallow—sales at 6c @ 6½c ℔ lb.

Pelts—$1 @ $1,37.

Sheep and Lambs—$1,75 @ 2,00; extra $3,00 @ $3,50.

Swine—Stores wholesale 4 @ 5c.; retail 4 @ 7c.

Fat hogs—Undressed, 4c; corn fed, 4½c.

Beeves are sold by the head, at prices equal to the value per pound of the estimated weight of beef in the quarter, the same price, at a shrinkage from five weight, agreed on by the parties, varying from 28 to 34 ℔ cent.

Remarks—Prices of extra beef remain much the same as last week; nothing sold higher than $7 ℔ 100 lbs, and only a few very extra pairs at that; the quality of beef not as good as last week. Sheep and Lambs sell about the same as last week. Swine are lower and dull.

BOSTON MARKET....Dec. 28.

FLOUR—We quote common brands Western at $5 00 @ 5 25; $5 25 @ 5 37 for fancy; $5 37 @ 5 62½ for extras; $5 75 a 7 75 for superior, including choice brands of St. Louis. Southern Flour $7 @ 8 75 ℔ bbl. for choice Baltimore brands.

CORN—Western yellow, 70 @ 72c, per bushel.

OATS—Western and Canada, 43 @ 44c ℔ bushel.

RYE—84c ℔ bushel.

HAY—Sales of Eastern at $15.

NEW YORK MARKET....Dec. 30.

Flour—State and western steady—Superfine State 5,35 a 5,50; extra 5,65 a 5,75; round hoop Ohio 5,90 a 6,70; superfine western 5,35 a 5,60; common to good extra western 5,70 a 5,85. Southern—mixed to good 5,60 a 5,95; fancy and extra 6,00 a 7,25. Canada quiet—superfine 5,35 a 5 40; extra 5,50 a 5,75.

Wheat—firm—Chicago spring 1,25 @ 1,30; Milwaukee club 1,30 a 1,32; red winter western 1,35 a 1,37; Iowa amber 1,35 a 1,36; Michigan amber 1,40 a 1,42.

Corn—firm—mixed western 63 a 64.

Married.

In Augusta, Dec. 24th, by Rev. J. H. Ingraham, Jefferson Merrill to Elvira A. Barnet, both of A.; Dec. 24th, by Rev. E. H. W. Smith, Hiram K. Morrill to Miss A. W. Haskell, both of Gardiner; Dec. 26th, by the same, John A. Gray to Ellen L. Wadsworth of Walpole, Mass.; Dec. 24th, by Rev. W. W. Brown, George N. Johnson to Martha J. Austin, both of Gardiner.

In Vassalboro', Dec. 20th, by L. Wentworth, Esq., Alexander McQuillan of Winslow, to Honora Williams of V.

In China, Dec. 22d, by Rev Wm. Bowler, John Webber, Jr., to Melinda Chadwick; also on the 25th, by the same, Joseph E. Crossman to Isabelle M. Brown, all of China.

In New Gloucester, Dec. 22d, by Rev. T. J. B. House, George B. Penny to Sarah J. Weymouth.

In Golden Ridge, Oct. 20th, by L. Gerry, Esq., Edwin P. Gatchell to Lizzie Washburn; by the same, Nov. 26th, Jonathan Clark to Salome Heald; by the same, Dec. 15th, Frederic Stubbs to Pamelia Sanderson.

In Hallowell, George W. Philbrick to Emma M. Wyman; Calvin R. Fuller to Catherine M. Milliken.

In Northport, Lemuel H. Decrow to Lizzie H. Bullock.

In Stockton, Capt. Henry K. Black to Annie C. Clewley.

In Portland, Henry H. Smith to Martha Sherburne, eldest daughter of Hon. John W. Dana.

Died.

In Augusta, Nov. 25th, Philip Reynolds, aged 53 years; Dec. 27th, Charley Walter, son of J. M. and Martha C. Sweetser, aged 2 years.

In Winthrop, Moses Joy, Jr., aged 26 years; Katy McCarty, aged 18 years.

In Leeds, Dec. 21, Humphrey Palmer, aged 56; Dec. 12th, Eunice Francis, daughter of Elder Thomas Francis, aged 67.

In Belgrade, Dec. 1st, Isabelle, wife of Ebenezer Fifield, aged 77.

In Monmouth, Dec. 17th, Mercy, wife of the late Joseph Rowell, Esq., aged 79 years 7 months.

In Solon, Dec. 23d, Arzelia W., wife of Wm. Doran.

In Athens, Dec. 17th, of diphtheria, Nelly A., only daughter of Alonzo and Sophia Goodwin, aged 3 years 6 months.

In Pittsfield, Dec. 19th, George, son of Geo. Lewis, aged 1 yr.

In Waldoboro', Dec. 10th, Mrs. Mary Winslow, aged 71.

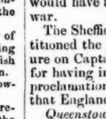
In Gray, John Warburton, aged 73.

In Belfast, Rushaba W., wife of John Curtis, aged 77.

In Fort Fairfield, Harriet L., wife of Jos. B. Robbins, aged 25.

In East Machias, Hon. John C. Talbot, Sr., aged 77.

In Albion, T. Melvin Shorey, aged 24.



DR. I. SNELL,
DENTIST.

With an experience of over twenty years, continues to perform all operations required for the health, preservation and beauty of the Teeth.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH from one to an entire set on gold or silver.

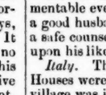
Teeth filled, cleaned and extracted skilfully, faithfully and tenderly. Ether administered in proper cases.

Teeth brushes, and Teeth powder.

Office, No. 69 Winthrop St., Augusta, Me.

Augusta, Dec. 30, 1861. 3tf

A GOOD FARM FOR SALE.



THE subscriber offers his valuable farm for sale, situated in North Fayette, on the stage road from Augusta to Farmington. Said farm contains one hundred and forty-six acres, suitably divided into mowing, pasturing and wood-land. Said farm cuts 35 tons of hay, and is within six miles of four villages, and near the farm known as the Don. Palmer farm. Said farm is well fenced and watered, with a good house well finished, and a large barn and outbuildings enough for all practical purposes.

Said farm will be sold very cheap, if applied for soon. It will be sold altogether, or in pieces, to suit purchasers. Any one wishing to buy a pasture of ten, fifteen or thirty acres, well fenced, can be accommodated.

For further particulars inquire of the subscriber on the premises. ISAAC MASON.

North Fayette, Jan. 1, 1862. 3w3*

KENNEBEC COUNTY...*In Court of Probate, held at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of December*, 1861.

A CERTAIN INSTRUMENT purporting to be the last will and testament of JAMES S. MACLEY, late of Augusta, in said County, deceased, having been presented for probate; with a codicil thereto:

ORDERED, That notice be given to all persons interested, by publishing a copy of this order in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, in said County, three weeks successively, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said County, on the fourth Monday of January next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, and show cause, if any they have, why the said instruments should not be proved, approved, and allowed as the last will and testament of the said deceased. H. K. BAKER, *Judge.*

Attest: J. BURTON, *Register.*
A true copy. Attest: J. BURTON, *Register.* 3*

KENNEBEC COUNTY...*In Court of Probate, held at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of December*, 1861.

BETSEY SMILEY, widow of JOHN SMILEY, late of Augusta, in said County, deceased, having presented her application for allowance out of the personal estate of said deceased:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given, three weeks successively, in the Maine Farmer, printed in Augusta, in said County, that all persons interested may attend at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of January next, and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted. H. K. BAKER, *Judge.*

A true copy. Attest: J. BURTON, *Register.* 3*

KENNEBEC COUNTY...*In Court of Probate, held at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of December*, 1861.

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, widow of JOSEPH WILLIAMS, late of Litchfield, in said County, deceased, having presented her application for allowance out of the personal estate of said deceased:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given, three weeks successively, in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, in said County, that all persons interested may attend at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of January next, and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted. H. K. BAKER, *Judge.*

A true copy. Attest: J. BURTON, *Register.* 3*

KENNEBEC COUNTY...*In Court of Probate held at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of December*, 1861.

MARY J. WILLIAMS, widow of JOHN B. WILLIAMS, late of Belgrade, in said County, deceased, having presented her application for allowance out of the personal estate of said deceased:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given, three weeks successively, in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, in said County, that all persons interested may attend at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of January next, and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted. H. K. BAKER, *Judge.*

A true copy. Attest: J. BURTON, *Register.* 3*

KENNEBEC COUNTY...*In Court of Probate, held at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of December*, 1861.

The Commissioners appointed to assign to SARAH F. MACOMBER, widow of WILLIAM A. MACOMBER, late of Monmouth, in said County, deceased, her dower in the real estate of said deceased, having made return of their doings:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given, three weeks successively, in the Maine Farmer, printed in Augusta, in said County, that all persons interested may attend at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, on the fourth Monday of January next, and show cause, if any they have, why the said return should not be accepted, and dower assigned accordingly.

H. K. BAKER, *Judge.*

A true copy. Attest: J. BURTON, *Register.* 3*

KENNEBEC SS....*At a Court of Probate, held at Augusta, within and for the County of Kennebec, on the fourth Monday of December, A. D.* 1861.

ISAIAH G. WORTH, Administrator on the Estate of SARAH F. MEADER, deceased, who was Guardian of Abby Anna Meader, of Vassalboro in said County, minor, having presented the final account of said Guardianship of said Ward for allowance:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given to all persons interested, by publishing a copy of this order three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said County, on the fourth Monday of January next, and show cause, if any, why the same should not be allowed. H. K. BAKER, *Judge.*

A true copy. Attest: J. BURTON, *Register.* 3*

KENNEBEC SS....*At a Court of Probate, held at Augusta, within and for the County of Kennebec, on the fourth Monday of December, A. D.* 1861.

REBECCA G. TOLMAN, Administratrix on the estate of SAMUEL TOLMAN, late of Augusta, in said County, deceased, having presented her first account of administration of the estate of said deceased for allowance:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given to all persons interested by publishing a copy of this order three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, printed in Augusta, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said County, on the fourth Monday of January next, and show cause, if any, why the same should not be allowed. H. K. BAKER, *Judge.*

A true copy. Attest: J. BURTON, *Register.* 3*

KENNEBEC SS....*At a Court of Probate, held at Augusta, within and for the County of Kennebec, on the fourth Monday of December, A. D.* 1861.

ISAIAH G. WORTH, Administrator on the Estate of SARAH F. MEADER, late of Vassalborough, in said County, deceased, having presented his first account of administration of the estate of said deceased for allowance:

ORDERED, That notice thereof be given to all persons interested, by publishing a copy of this order three weeks successively in the Maine Farmer, printed at Augusta, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said County, on the fourth Monday of January next, and show cause, if any, why the same should not be allowed. H. K. BAKER, *Judge.*

A true copy. Attest: J. BURTON, *Register.* 3*

"How Great a matter a little Fire kindleth."

Who would have though a few years since that the little medicated sugar pills, was to play so conspicuous a part in the great drama of life, but such it is, and to it the actors of the drama are looking for a continuance of that vitality that will enable him to act.

Homeopathy has now grown to such proportions that it overshadows all other systems of medical practice, and since the introduction of

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Poetry.

TO THE NORTHWOMEN.

Knit—knit—knit—
If you've patriot blood in your veins!
Knit—knit—knit!
For our boys on southern plains,
Our boys in Southern vales,
By the woods and streams of Dixie's land,
Are feeling the wintry gales.

Knit—knit—knit—
For our Northern soldiers brave!
Knit—knit—knit—
While the stars and Stripes they wave!
While they the rebels in battle meet,
Be yours to fashion, with fingers fleet,
The nice warm socks for the weary feet—
Knit—knit—knit—
For our boys on Southern hills,
Our boys in southern vales,
By the woods and streams of Dixie's land,
Are feeling the wintry gales.

Knit—knit—knit—
The socks and mittens and gloves!
Knit—knit—knit—
Each one that her country loves!
Lay by the useless, though beautiful toy,
With which you so many an hour employ,
And knit instead, for the soldier boy—
Knit—knit—knit—
For our boys on Southern hills,
Our boys in Southern vales,
By the hills and streams of Dixie's land,
Are feeling the wintry gales.

Knit—knit—knit—
Narrow, and wicken, and seam—
Knit—knit—knit—
Till the flying needles gleam.
Knit till the mitten lies complete—
Knit till the socks for the weary feet
The eye of each patient soldier greet—
Knit—knit—knit—
For our boys on Southern hills,
Our boys in Southern vales,
By the woods and streams of Dixie's land,
Are feeling the wintry gales.

Knit—knit—knit—
Work at it early and late;
Knit—knit—knit—
Let nobody's zeal abate.
While rebels would rain this glorious land,
Between us and them are our brave boys
Ready to fall in their lives a woman and—
Knit—knit—knit—
For our boys on Southern hills,
Our boys in Southern vales,
By the woods and streams of Dixie's land,
Are feeling the wintry gales.

Knit—knit—knit—
With a warm heart and a true!
Knit—knit—knit—
The stockings warm and new,
The mittens with finger and thumb complete—
The gloves for the drummers their drums to beat—
And the nice warm socks for the shivering feet—
Knit—knit—knit—
For our boys on Southern hills,
Our boys in Southern vales,
By the woods and streams of Dixie's land,
Are feeling the wintry gales.

Knit—knit—knit—
And knit with many a prayer!
Knit—knit—knit—
Pray God the lives to spare
Of loved ones soon on the battle-field
The deadly weapons of war to wield—
And pray that the foe before them yield—
Knit—knit—knit!
For our boys on Southern hills,
Our boys in Southern vales,
By the woods and streams of Dixie's land,
Are feeling the wintry gales.

—*Independent.*

Our Story-Teller.

THE PHANTOM WITNESS.

I was on my first circuit—both the cause list and the criminal paper of the Northampton assizes were crowded with causes. I had two or three briefs of no great importance, for I was young at the bar; and yet at this same Northampton assizes I was daily getting shadowy, nervous, pale, and weak: I could not sleep—at times I could not think. A "case" set heavy upon my soul, I felt weighed down as by a constant nightmare. I had a criminal case on hand. It had been put off from day to day, on account of the time it was supposed it would occupy, but it was coming on.

A fearful sense of responsibility was constantly present to my imagination. I had not yet grown callous to human suffering. I could not then contemplate crime, suffering, and retribution, with the merely critical eye of an artist in law, and I suffered accordingly.

A young girl, almost a child—her age was but fifteen—was to be put upon her trial for murder. Anna Dorner Heritage was committed for the murder of John Adolphe Seaton, an infant, and her own sister's son. I was retained for the defense.

Day and night, at meal times, in the hours that should have been those of recreation, at times when my other duties should have occupied me, I pondered over this case and read and re-read the depositions, and toiled mentally till I began to look like some wretch with an undiscovered crime resting heavily upon his heart, and walked and lived in bodily fear of detection.

Could she be guilty? I had seen her more than once—a mild, gentle, loveable, fair young girl, who did not appear to have nerve enough to have crushed an offensive fly. But the evidence.

The evidence was awfully conclusive against her. I condense it for the reader. Before we step into court on the occasion of this most remarkable trial, we will glance over the record exhibited by the youthful and engaging prisoner.

There resided on his property, which comprised a beautiful mansion and a manor in the county of Northamptonshire, a Sir Ralph Heritage. This gentleman had only one son, whose irregularities had estranged him from friends, relations, and finally from his father. But the father had long fought against the fact of his son's bad conduct; he had been the last and most loth to shut his heart against him; and it was not until a highway robbery, in which Richard Heritage most unquestionably had a share, that Sir Ralph was compelled to banish from his home the son to whom his heart clung.

Pity this poor father—pity the man who has garnered up his best affections in a thankless child.

And so Richard Heritage disappeared, and only now and then came vague rumors that he was wandering about those South American streets which teem with adventurers of every clime and of every hue.

And Sir Ralph felt that he was getting old and feeble; his wife had been long since in the family tomb of the Heritages. He was a lonely man, and it was with a gush of grateful tears that one autumnal evening, he read a letter that had reached him from Ceylon, to say that his youngest brother Alfred, who had many long years ago sought that island as a home, with a sickly wife, was no more; and the children—orphans, and one a young widow—were left destitute or nearly so, and were only waiting in the hope that their uncle, Sir Ralph, would give them encouragement to come "home." They called England "home" although they had been very little children indeed when they had gone to Ceylon with their sick mother and anxious father.

Twelve years had elapsed, and father and mother were both dead. The eldest girl, Rachel, had married for love, and he whom she loved died within eighteen months of their union. Rachel then was a young widow, with an infant clinging to her for help. Her sister, Anna it was who wrote to their uncle at his grand estate in Northamptonshire, detailing all these events; and it was that letter which produced the flood of tears we have mentioned from the old lone knight.

Would these two sorrowing ones and the little child be welcome? Ah, yes! The mere thought of their coming was new life to him, and he was seen to smile, for the first time in the memory of some of his servants, on the day succeeding the receipt of Anna's letter from Ceylon.

That the answer to that letter was all that could be wished by the sisters we may well imagine. He sent them ample means to come to England, and assured them of a fatherly welcome at Heritage Hall.

The time sped on, and the sisters, with the infant, reached England. They traveled by post from Liverpool to Northampton, and but for the accident of a break-down of the post-chaise about ten miles from Heritage Hall, would, on a wild, tempestuous day in February, have dined with their uncle. But this was not to be.

On the cross-road that the postillion was advised to take, since it avoided a very hilly district, the chaise encountered a fallen tree, which, in the dim twilight, was not observed until too late; and then it had so dislocated the machinery of the chaise that it was impossible to proceed further with it, and the party were fain to take shelter for the night at a road-side inn, named "The Wheatsheaf."

The rain came down in torrents, and the wind howled through some neighboring copses, as if presaging by its dismal tones unheard-of evils to the unfortunate travelers then benighted on their journey.

The inn's best room—I took the trouble to examine it, in the interest of my client—was shabby in the extreme. It had two beds in it, and there was down the middle of the room a sliding partition, which, on an emergency, would convert the apartment into two.

It was into this room, then, at ten o'clock on this wild spring evening, that the two sisters, with the infant, were ushered. The rain dashed against the two latticed windows, as if their destruction was the sole object of the storm; and the wind struck the large sloping roof of the house with such gusty blows that the sisters more than once believed that some one must be at work in some mad fashion above their heads.

The small candle that the ill appointed inn afforded them flared and flickered in the little candlestick, and threatened each moment to expire, so they hastened to rest.

And there were the gentle sisterly caresses, the kind "Good night!" the "God bless you, Anna!" and "God bless you, Rachel!" and the little one was kissed and commended to Heaven, and the light was put out; and then Rachel, from some cause that she could not define, burst into a passion of tears, and sister Anna called out:—

"Rachel! Rachel! what is it? Why do you cry when you are going to be so happy?"

"I cannot help it, Anna! My heart is heavy—so very heavy! And yet how much have we to be thankful for, in the kindness of our uncle, who promises to make Ernest (the infant son) his heir."

And then Anna laughed and spoke in badinage, to raise her sister's spirits—

"To be sure, Rachel; and I go to the wall and shall not get a husband, all on account of your little Ernest, when I fully intended to make Uncle Ralph leave me everything. Come, now, go to sleep. Good night!"

"Good night, dear!"

"Good night."

This little dialogue was overheard by the landlady of the inn. It was nothing in itself, but it appeared on the depositions against Anna, as though written in letters of blood.

The sisters slept. The little Ernest slept his last sleep on the breast of his mother.

The rain still came down in torrents, and the wind still howled around the old inn. One o'clock had just been pronounced by the tall old fashioned clock in the bar, when landlord, landlady, chambermaid, and boots, were all aroused by such a succession of piercing shrieks, from the room occupied by the sisters, that they one and all made a rush in that direction, with such hastily snatched up garments as terror enabled them to procure, and with the only light that was always on a slab in a passage.

The sight that met their eyes was a terrible one. It was one that has converted that old roadside inn into a melancholy inn, for none would sleep in it again.

The door of the chamber was wide open, and Rachel, the mother of the infant boy, was lying half in and half out of the room, on her face. Anna was sitting up in bed, looking scared and bewildered, and seemingly not conscious that her hands, face and clothing about her were dabbled in blood.

The landlady shrieked, "Murder!"

The landlord called for help.

A traveller who had arrived on foot at the inn some hours after the sisters, and who had given his name as Mr. Brown, hurried along a long, ancient corridor, at the further end of which he slept, to the place of confusion.

"God heavens!" he said, "what is the matter?"

It was terrible then to see Anna, as unconsciously she passed her blood-stained hands over her face, and looked about her as one still in a dream.

"It's murder!" said the landlady.

"The child!" said the landlord; there was a child."

"What child?" said Mr. Brown—"I don't see any child here."

Upon this the landlady uttered a terrible cry, and from between the bed on which Anna was and the wall, she lifted the lifeless and murdered body of little Ernest.

The little one was stabbed to the heart with a steel ornamented paper knife. The sisters had been robbed at Liverpool, or on board the vessel from Ceylon, of a trunk in which that paper knife might have been. But one fact was admitted. The knife belonged to Anna, and she bought it at Columbo. This was the case. On her recovery from a swoon which lasted many hours, Rachel made the following statement.

Soon after the conversation we have recorded with her sister, she had gone to sleep with her child on her arm, but finding him restless and starting occasionally, she had gently drawn her arm from him, and had been persuaded he slept soundly. How long she had remained in this state she knew not, but what awakened her was a faint kind of sob, which she felt certain was the last sound uttered by little Ernest in life. It aroused her in a moment, and she sprang out of bed on finding the child was not with her, and mechanically ran for the door, which she flung open.

And here comes a remarkable statement from Rachel. I give it in her own words:

"On opening the door I saw that from some light below, (there was an oil lamp in the passage,) there came up a strange reflection on the wall of the corridor, which was to the right hand, and through that reflection, passing along it, as if stooping to avoid it, if possible, I saw the shadow of a man, large, and not very well defined, owing to its exaggerated dimensions; but still, there it was, and it passed away into the gloom at the further end of the corridor, and disappeared."

Overcome, then, by the terror of she knew not what, Rachel fell into that swoon in which she was found by the people of the inn.

Such was the statement of the half distracted mother, on the examination before the Northampton magistrates of her sister Anna, whose innocence of the murder of her child, she declared herself as thoroughly satisfied of, as of the existance of Heaven.

Sir Ralph Heritage was sent for, and the shock so completely unmanned him that although filling the office that year of high sheriff of the county, he was compelled to go home where he took to his bed, from which it did not seem probable he would rise again.

Several of the seniors of the bar had shrunk from undertaking the defence of Anna Heritage, and the case was brought to me. I took it, and from the moment I did so, I felt a conviction that there was some fearful mystery in it, which, unless elucidated, would leave the youthful accused to be judicially murdered.

And so I thought and pondered over the affair, until I was afraid that my own mind would get into some abnormal condition, and I would be unable to do what human means could do for Anna Heritage.

I saw her but once before the trial. I shall never forget the manner in which she looked at me, as she gently shook her head, saying:

"They will kill me, sir, but Heaven knows I am innocent! If my death would bring back poor Rachel her boy, (here she burst into tears,) I should be willing to die; but as it is, I am very, very young to be murdered!"

I could say but little. I pressed both her hands in mine, and only gasped out some common-place expression of hopeful consolation, and then I left her.

The case was fearfully strong against her. There was but one supposition in her favor.

The shadow—the phantom-like form seen by her mother—who was he? Was it this Mr. Brown? Who and what was he? I hunted him—I employed people to dog and watch him. It all came to nothing. He was a commercial traveller for a house in Marseilles and was engaged in trying to do business in Northampton.

Several old counsel, to whom I spoke of the case, were of the opinion that the shadow seen by Rachel was either no shadow at all, or was the work of her imagination, or the veritable shadow of some of the people of the inn, who, alarmed at her cries, were hastening to her room.

And so at length the morning of the trial came, and full of anxiety as I was, it came as a positive relief to me. The then lord chief baron of the exchequer presided. He was a calm, enlightened judge, who never permitted his own prejudices—as some of his successors have done—to warp either law or justice; and come what might of the matter, I knew that the young prisoner would have a fair trial.

The court was crowded to excess. A positive disturbance at the door hindered the commencement of the day's proceedings for a full half hour, and it was only quelled by force.

The attorney general had come down from London to prosecute on behalf of the crown; and the counsel's seats were so closely packed that no one could stir, except those engaged in the case.

The jury looked grave and half frightened. The judge was pale, and more serious-looking than usual; and as for me, I felt sick at heart, and when the uneasy kind of hush that pervaded the court let me know that Anna Heritage was placed at the bar, it was some few moments before I could muster up courage to look at her. How pale, how wan, and yet how beautiful she looked.

Her hair was dressed in the most simple style possible, and she wore a dress of gray silk, which fitted closely around the neck, terminating in a narrow plaited frill. Her lips trembled, and her gentle eyes seemed to shrink behind their abundant lashes as she met the gaze of friend and foe in that crowded court—that is, if one so young, so fair, and so innocent, could have a foe.

I could see the judge taking a look at her beneath his bent-down brows, and then he rested his head on his hands, and appeared in deep thought. The attorney general tossed a scrap of paper over the table to me. It contained these words:

"The witness Brown has absconded: make what use of the fact you can."

I nodded gratefully, and felt that he would only just do his duty against the prisoner.

Then there was a strange, half sigh, half hush, all through the auditory, and a lady in deep mourning came into the court. It was the bereaved mother. She went direct to the front of the dock, where sister was arraigned on so dreadful a charge, and leaned over the front of it, with both arms extended, she cried:

"Dear, dear Anna, God bless you, and prove your innocence, as I feel it!"

Anna was overcome by this, and she burst into a shrieking passion of sobs and tears. The sisters could only just interlace their arms together, until the judge said, in a deep, sad voice:

"This must not be. Proceed, proceed."

The clerk of arraigns, in a high, cracked, indifferent voice, proceeded to read the indictment, and Rachel sat down in a chair that some one had placed for her just beneath the dock.

Poor Anna's fortitude seemed wholly to have given away. Her fair face was hidden in her hands, and resting on the front of the bar. It was a fashion to place a row of aromatic herbs on the bar before the prisoner in those days, and among them she leaned; and some of them, watered by her tears, fell upon her sister's lap as she sat beneath.

Then came the question, "Prisoner at the bar, do you plead guilty or not guilty to the present indictment?"

Anna did not stir. The poor girl had not heard the question, but her sister rose, and in a mild, clear voice, said:

"She is not guilty, sirs. He was my little one. He is in Heaven now, and if you take her life she will go to him sooner than I, and be happy. She is not guilty, sirs."

The governor of the jail had by this time jogged Anna by the arm, and whispered to her, when she looked up hastily and said, "O, no, no, no! a thousand times, no!"

"The plea is not guilty," said the judge; so enter it."

The attorney general rose. The court was hushed. I never took my eye off his for one moment while he spoke.

"My lord and gentleman of the jury, the prisoner at the bar, Anna Domer Heritage, is on her trial for the murder of Ernest Seaton. If she be guilty, it is a guilt which casts the shadow of its terrible atrocity over every hearth in England; if innocent, she is piece of suffering virtue which I implore Heaven to protect. I am here to perform a duty, not to advocate a cause. God forbid that by one word, one look, one tone or gesture, I should seek to color a fact or inflame your passions. I wish to be the mouthpiece of a narrative merely; you are the judges. The present respected high sheriff of the county is Sir Ralph Heritage, of Heritage Hall. He had a brother who married and went to reside in Ceylon with his wife and two infant daughters. One of these daughters, in course of years, was there married to Mr. Seaton, a young merchant. He died leaving her a widow with a child—the murdered Ernest mentioned in the indictment against the prisoner now on trial. The brother of Sir Ralph Heritage died at Ceylon, soon after the death of his wife, and the two daughters were alone, one a widow, with her infant son—the other, the prisoner at the bar. They communicated with their uncle, Sir Ralph Heritage, who sent them a kind invitation to come to him, intimating at the same time, that he would make his grandnephew, Ernest Seaton, his heir. They came—the child, the mother, and the young aunt. They reached Liverpool in the ship Alceste, and took a post chaise to Northamptonshire. The chaise boke down at a place named Dallington Flats, and the party were compelled to take refuge from a raging storm, and to pass the night at an inn named Wheatsheaf. The child, the mother, and the aunt retired early to a double bedded room. The child slept with its mother, the prisoner at the bar in the other bed. At five minutes past one o'clock on that night, the landlord and his wife were awakened by loud screams, and they hurried in the direction of the sound, which led to the room in question. Mrs. Seaton was found lying insensible in the doorway. The prisoner at the bar was sitting up in the bed, and much disfigured on her hands with blood. The body of the child, Ernest, was found between that bed and the wall, with a knife in its heart. Now, gentlemen of the jury, these are prominent facts; but there are some collateral ones, which it is my duty to mention. The landlady of the Wheatsheaf will depose that, as she was passing the door of the room occupied by the two sisters, she heard them conversing, and, with an accidental curiosity, she paused to listen, when she heard the prisoner say, "I shall go to the wall, and not get a husband, all on account of your little Ernest, when I intended to make Uncle Ralph take to me, or make me his favorite, and leave me all his money." These the landlady will tell you, may not be the exact words used, but she will swear to you, as she has already sworn to the justice, but they are very near, and contain the sentiment which was uttered. Collateral fact the second, then, my lords and gentlemen of the jury, is, that the knife which did the deed belonged to the prisoner, and was bought by her at Columbo, in Ceylon. Gentleman, God help and aid us all to get at the truth of this matter. I have nothing more to say."

The attorney general sat down, not adding one word to his bare statement of these facts, on which the case rested.

A cold perspiration sat on my brow. How fearfully strong was the case, and what had I to rebut it with? Nothing—nothing! What if Brown had absconded? What if Brown had been swallowed up by an earthquake? His absence or presence would make but little account in such a case. He had only seen what others saw—he could add nothing to the evidence of the landlord and landlady of the inn.

I felt as if my very heart paled, as I saw the blank, half terror stricken countenance of the jury, and fancied in every whisper they indulged in to each other, the word guilty might be found.

The junior counsel for the prosecution now rose, and called "Jacob Wilts."

There was a slight bustle, and the landlord got into the witness box. He merely deposed to the coming of the sisters and child to the Wheatsheaf, and the alarm in the night, and the finding of the dead body of the child, as stated.

The attorney general then glanced at me, and I rose to cross examine.

"Had you any other guests in the Wheatsheaf on the night in question?"

"Yes sir, a Mr. Brown."

"When did he come?"

"About an hour after the ladies."

"Was he a stranger to you?"

"Quite, sir."

"Where did he sleep?"

"At the end of the gallery, about fifty paces off the ladies' room."

"You can go down now, but I shall want you again."

"Yes sir."

Martha Wilts the landlady was the next witness examined, and she confirmed what the attorney general had stated. Her account of what Anna had said made a strong impression on the jury, and when I rose to cross examine her, I felt that that was the point to attend to.

"Now, Mrs. Wilts," I said, "you have said many a thing in jest to your husband, and he to you, no doubt."

"Lord bless you, yes."

"And meant no harm?"

"Not the least, Sir."

"Of course not. Now, can you recollect anything you may have said to him, or of him in that harmless way, lately?"

Oh, dear, yes sir! When he takes a drop too much I am very apt to say that I hope the next thing will choke him, but I no more mean it than you do, sir."

"And of course by the tone in which you say it, he knows it is only a joke?"

"To be sure."

"You speak in something of the tone of the prisoner at the bar, when she said she should never get a husband?"

"Just so, sir."

"That will do. You can go down."

Mr. Brown was the next witness called, and no one appeared.

I was resolved to make the most I could in favor of the prisoner out of this disappearance of Brown, although I feared it would not be much; but it was not then time to take notice of it.

The name of Brown reverberated through the court, and the passages, and the adjacent street, but no Brown appeared.

The attorney general then himself rose and said:

"It is my most painful duty to call Mrs. Rachel Seaton. It is a duty I would have fain avoided, if possible, for no man can feel more sensible than I do how sad to her must be the task of being summoned for the prosecution in this case, but it cannot be helped, and I therefore call Mrs. Seaton."

With slow and melancholy step the poor mother got into the witness box, but she kept her eyes upon Anna with a longing, tender glance, till the judge said mildly, "Witness, you must look this way."

Then she gently turned from the observation of Anna, and they could all see the tears rolling down her cheeks.

"Sirs—sirs!" she cried, "this should not be. You will understand, sirs, that he was my boy—my only one. You cannot understand how—I—loved him—because—that is hidden here—here, in my poor broken heart. But when I, who, losing him, you see, sirs, have lost all—all that I had in this world—when I declare that Anna is innocent, you should listen to me. Last night, sirs—it was the same hour last night—he, my babe—my own dear—oh Heaven, these tears scald me! If I could only die now—now—now!"

Here she wept—what a passion of grief was there!—and throughout all the court you might hear sobs and faint cries, and the judge wrapped his mantle over his face and leaned back in his chair; and all was still but the voice of grief in that court.

The attorney general said faintly, "I will ask nothing of this woman."

Then I rose.

"Madam, madam!"

My voice sounded hollow and strange, in the midst of so much grief and such sounds of tears, and the poor woman started and looked up at me.

"Ah, yes," she said. "To you—to you!"

She recognized me as acting for the defence, and she meant to say that she would speak to me; and before I could ask her anything she went on:

"Sirs, all listen to me. I did not see the murderer of my darling, but I saw his shadow. It is ever present to me now—like a phantom, it goes with me wherever I may go! Last night too—oh, you will say that was a dream, but dreams are of Heaven's making, as well as waking thoughts—I saw him then—my little angel! Oh, what a light was there—the light of Heaven in the dear eyes and on the little face—the shining colors of heaven were about him—my own dear little one. I heard his voice—so soft, so low, so beautiful; and he said that she was innocent, and had ever loved him."

"Sister, dear sister!" cried Anna. "I did ever love him—I am innocent."

There were sobs and cries now in the court, and twice I tried to command my voice to speak before I could say to her, "Madam—madam! that shadow you saw on the night of the murder? Tell us of it."

"I will—I will! I saw it on the wall. The tall, broad shadow, or the phantom of a man,"

"What was it like?" interposed the judge, "Tell us, madam, what it was like, if you can."

"I will, I will! What is this?"

Mrs. Seaton looked around her, and up at the windows of the court with a shudder,

"It is nothing," said I. "A thunder-storm is about to take place. That is all."

For the last ten minutes the court had been gradually getting so dark, that it was scarcely possible to see from one side of it to the other, and scarcely had the last words passed my lips, when a flash of blue lightning, that was perfectly bewildering in its brightness, lit up the place, and was followed by such a peal of thunder, that the building in which was the court house appeared to shake to its foundations.

A scene of confusion appeared in the court, by the efforts of some to leave, and by some females fainting. A loud voice then cried out close to the door, "Make way there—make way! Out of my way, I say! I cannot—I will not stay here. We shall have the place down about our ears! Out of my way!"

A man who had been hiding in an obscure corner close to the jury box, tried to fight his way out of the court. Then a voice cried out, "That is Brown!"

It was never discovered who uttered those words, but I called out loudly, "Detain that man! He is a witness in this case, and duly subpœnaed, and being in court, can be compelled to speak. Stop that man!"

Brown was pounced upon by several officers and brought forward.

"What is this for?" he cried. "What have I done? Ha, ha! A prime joke, this!"

The attorney general sprang to his feet.

"You are our witness," he said. "My lord judge, may we have lights?"

"Lights," said the judge; "I cannot see my notes."

The darkness of the court increased each moment, and the thunder again, like the discharge of heavy ordnance, rolled over the building.

"I have nothing to say," cried Brown; "no evidence to give, I tell you. I was fast asleep and heard cries, and went to see what was amiss; and then I saw just what the landlord and landlady saw, no more, no less."

"Lights, the-re," said the judge.

"Yes, my lord," said a voice.

A man appeared with a light, with which to ignite the chandelier.

What shrieks are those? Oh! sounds of horror, wild laughter, cries of exultation mingled with horror.

It is the bereaved mother.

"Look—oh, look! There on the wall, near to you, my lord judge! This is God's mercy! It is heaven's testimony—the phantom witness! I know it well! There is the murderer's shadow!"

There was a strange shouting cry in the court. The counsel all rose from their seats, and the judge looked askance with amazement on his face.

Cast on the wall of the court by the light that had been brought, was the shadow of the man Brown. Huge and exaggerated, there it was; and as he shrank down in the vain hope of escaping its production, Mrs. Seaton had seen it, even as she had seen it cast on the wall of the corridor of the inn by the oil lamp in the passage, as he had shrunk away with the blood of the innocent child upon his soul.

Brown then made a frantic effort to escape, but he was overpowered and secured in a moment. The storm clouds passed over, and a long, broad beam of sunshine streamed into the court.

"Not guilty!" cried the jury with one voice: and in another moment Anna was in the arms of her sister.

Then a tall, pale old man stood up by the side of the judge. It was Sir Ralph Heritage, the high sheriff, who had risen from his sick bed, and arrived in the court during its darkness from the storm. His hands clasped together, and with a sigh he said, as he looked at Brown:—

"You are my unhappy son, and I now have a key to all these horrors. You have done murder, lest a new claimant on my affections should arise in the presence of the poor child you have destroyed. My lord judge, this is my death-blow. Take me home, you who have compassion."

The high sheriff sank back on the bench, and when they went to raise him they found but a corpse.

The motive of Richard Heritage for committing this dreadful deed at the inn was now but too apparent. He was tried and convicted in due course, but managed to procure a deadly poison, and evaded the sentence of the law.

A will of Sir Ralph Heritage was found, which left the bulk of his property to the poor murdered child, so that his male relatives put in their claims; but a sufficient sum was secured for the case and competence of both Rachel and Anna.

Poor Rachel! She lived one year, and then she went to see, not in a dream, but in reality, the sunshine of heaven on the face of her baby boy.

DIFFICULT QUESTION ANSWERED.

Can any one tell why, when Eve was made out of one of Adams's ribs, a hired girl was not made at the same time, to wait upon her? We can, easy! Because Adam never came whining to Eve with a hole in his stocking to be darned, a button to be sewed on, or a glove to be mended right away, quick now! Because he never read the newspaper until the sun got down behind the palm-tree, and then stretched himself, yawning out, "Ain't supper most ready, my dear?" Not he. He made the fire and hung over the ten-kettle himself, we'll venture, and pulled the radishes, and did everything he ought to. He milked the cows, and fed the chickens, and looked after the pigs himself. He never brought a half dozen friends to dinner when Eve had not anything in the larder, 'sparagus season was over. He never staid out until eleven o'clock at a ward meeting, hurrahing for the out-and-out candidate, and then scolding because poor Eve was sitting up and crying inside the gates. To be sure, he acted rather cowardly about apple-gathering time; but then that doesn't depreciate his general helpfulness about the garden. He never played billiards, nor drove fast horses, nor choked Eve with cigar-smoke. He never dined at his club, while solitary Eve was rocking little Cain's cradle at home. In short, he didn't think she was created especially for the purpose of waiting on him, and wasn't under the impression that it disgraced a man to lighten his wife's care a little. That's the reason that Eve did not need a hired girl; and we wish it was the reason that none of her fair descendants did.

"FORE-RUNNERS."

"Do you believe in fore-runners?" asked a nervous lady of old Deacon I——. "Yes, ma'am," replied the Deacon; "I've seen them." "Bless me!" exclaimed the lady; "do tell!" "Yes," continued the Deacon, fixing his eyes with a solemn stare on a dark corner of the room; "*I see one now!*" "Mercy! mercy on me!" shrieked the lady, "where?" "There! there!" said the Deacon, pointing to where his eyes were were well directed. "That cat, ma'am, may be called a fore-runner, for she runs on all fours!"

A compliment is usually accompanied with a bow, as if to beg pardon for paying it.

Family Fireside Talk.

THE OLD YEAR.

The pale Old Year! His locks are white,
His brow is crisp and bare;
And he who gave us such delight
Now sobs upon the air.

His step is feeble now, and slow;
He leans upon a staff;
No crown of flowers adorns his brow;
No music in his laugh.

O'er Beauty's dying bloom he sighs,
While winds do sob and blow,
And fluttering leaves from wintry skies
Drop, drop into the snow.

Joy to the bridegroom and the bride
With open hand he gave;
Smiles to the cheerless, cold fireside
Drop, drop into the grave.

Stern not the eldest-born of Time;
O'er his rash deeds we mourn;
His ashes will be deemed sublime
In History's golden urn.

Victorious flags wave o'er his head;
Ana, though they bear a stain,
'Tis like the blood of Abel, shed
By the red hand of Cain.

Upon his heart two flowerets bland—
The Rose and Violet—bloom;
And, planted by one gentle hand,
Shall spring upon his tomb.

Poor Martyr of the thankless Past,
Pelted by pitiless snow!
Thy life shall cease—thy fame shall last
While winds do sob and blow.

The sad world shall an offering bring
To thee, thou Victor brave!
The richest garland of the Spring
Shall crown thy glorious grave.

SHELDON CHADWICK.

A REMEDY FOR MOTHS.

We were examining our wardrobe after the summer, and found, to our surprise and grief, many of our choicest articles of apparel sadly damaged by the moths. In the midst of our trouble, and the discussion as to the modes of protection against the moths, which had been handed down by tradition,—Aunt Julia came in.

"Aunt Julia, how do you keep your winter clothing from the moths?" we both asked eagerly, as the good lady proceeded to lay aside her handsome shawl, which looked as fresh as ever after seven years' wear.

"I used to suffer from moths as much as any body, once," replied Aunt Julia, taking her knitting from her little basket, and sitting down, "but I found a recipe in an old fashioned book, which has relieved me of much solicitude on the subject. It was many years before I could be persuaded to try it. In my young days money was not quite as plenty as now, but provisions were cheap, and a farmer's daughter began her married life better supplied with linen, blankets, and bed-quilts, than many jewel-decked city belles. As I was an only daugeter, and not married too young, a noble pile of blankets, feather beds, bed quilts, &c., became my portion. For many years after we removed to the city, I used to dread my summer's work of airing beds, and packing away fine home-made blankets and quilts stuffed with the softest down. I tried snuff, tobacco, camphor, pepper and cedar chips, and yet as we changed our place of residence several times, some colony of moths, old squatters among the beams of the garret, or in some unobserved scrap of woolen cloth, would perforate tiny holes in my choicest possessions."

"Why, Aunt Julia, I thought you had a cedar closet?"

"Yes, when we moved into our new house; but by that time my closet was too small for my increased wealth, and till I used this receipt, I seldom passed a year without some moth holes, but now I have not seen one in nine years."

"What was it, Aunt? Have you the book—or can you repeat it from memory? It is too late to save these things, but I will write it down and try it next spring."

So saying, Anna took out the little receipt book and pencil, while Aunt Julia prepared to record the moth preventive.

The book was an old one with the title obliterated, and the title page torn out by some careless child, but the directions were these:

"Lay not up for yourself treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt.

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal."

"O, Aunt Julia, is that all? How does that help the matter?"

"Wait, Anna, and hear my story out. One day, as I was mourning over my choicest blankets eaten by the moths, and airing my down bed quilts and feather beds, which had been rendered obsolete by the introduction of spring matrasses, as I stood ready to cry with vexation to see my choicest articles eaten in the most conspicuous places, as you have experienced to-day, my eye rested on an old Bible which lay on the top of a barrel of pamphlets in the garret. I opened it, and almost unconsciously read the recipe for avoiding moths, which I have given you to day. I then recollected that they seldom troubled the clothing in frequent use, and that the articles which caused me so much care were not needed twice a year. I then thought of Sophy Baker, with her large family and sick husband. They had been burned out the spring before, and were just entering upon a cold, long winter of poverty. I sat down, and writing her a note, sent her two leather beds and four blankets, and an old fashioned coverlid, that very day; and two more blankets I despatched to a poor old rheumatic neighbor whose destitution had never occurred to me before. I then began to breathe freely; and before another week two more blankets were gone to comfort tired limbs and aching hearts. The cast-off cloaks, coats, and old pieces of carpeting which had long lain in my garret, were given to the deserving poor. A bag of woolen stockings and socks, which had been kept for cleaning brass, were sent to a charity institution, never again to become a temptation to the moths. I inquired particularly the next year, and found the beds and blankets were in such excellent preservation, that I cheerfully laid up more of my surplus property '*in Heaven*,' and out of moth and mould. My cedar closet and trunks hold all I wish to preserve, and when they begin to run over, I commit more articles to the keeping of my widowed and fatherless acquaintances."

"But Aunt Julia, yours is a peculiar case. You had the home-made outfit of a rich farmer's daughter, and could not expect to make use of it; besides the Bible don't encourage wasting our goods extravagantly."

"I do think the Bible leans to what is called the extravagant side. The rest of the chapter following the verse I have quoted, gives little encouragement to much forethought either in food or raiment, and in another place says: 'He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none.' This rule leaves very little to pack away in a cedar closet. In my opinion, God's providence is far from encouraging extensive accumulation either of money or possessions, especially among Christians. Fire and flood, drought, mildew and moth, stand ready to rebuke that spirit of covetousness which the Lord abhorreth."

"Surely, Aunt Julia, you wouldn't have me give away the new furs you gave me yourself last winter?"

"No, my child; but let us examine for a moment this moth-eaten pile. Here are three coats of your husband's, which he could not possibly wear again."

"Those are for fishing, Aunt."

"How often does he fish?"

"Once in four or five years," said Anna looking slightly discomfitted.

"Well, here is a bag of outgrown, shrunken socks and stockings, and these old dresses of Ada's, and these overcoats of the boys, that I heard you say were unfit for wear, even in the playground, and besides I think you remarked that the whole difficulty originated in an old carpet, which had been harboring moths many years, when it might have been out of harm's way on some poor widow's floor."

"Well, Aunt, I believe you are half right."

"Try my rule, Anna; not after your property is ruined, but when you find that you can spare it—even at the risk of sending some of your treasure to heaven before you have obtained all you could from its use. Many an old garret have I known to be infested with moths, ruining hundreds of dollars' worth of valuable articles, when the whole might be traced to an old coat or carpet, selfishly or carelessly withheld from the poor. We are God's stewards, and our luxuries are not given us to feed a 'covetousness which is idolatry:' but are talents which may be increased ten times before the great day of final account. When people ask me how to prevent moths, I always long to say, 'Lay up your treasures in Heaven;' because I have found from experience it is a sure and convenient way."

"Well, Aunt, I own I never thought much of it before, as a matter of Christian duty. I will try before another year, to confine my care to the articles I need, and shall hope for better success."

To Cure Dyspepsia. Take a new axe, put a white hickory handle in it, bore a hole in the top of the handle, fill the hole with gum camphor, and seal it up. Then take the axe and cut cord wood at fifty cents a cord, until the heat of the handle dissolves the camphor.

DOMESTIC LIFE.

It has been said of the American people, before now, that they live too much in and for the public eye. We cannot deny the imputation. Not that it is literally true of each and every one of us, but it is undeniable that thus are our young men and women directly trained. The mouthing of their names by persons whom they know nothing of, appears to many to be actual fame, and it tastes as sweet to them; whereas true fame rests on sympathetic appreciation, and not at all on the popular repetition of parroted phrases and catch words. If Tom, Dick and Harry are said to speak favorably of us, we are happy; but neither Tom, Dick nor Harry may have ever heard a word of us before, may know nothing of us now; and would probably speak just as well for the town-pump or the sign-post, if so it suited their pleasure, as for ourselves. There is nothing in it. If life brings us no more than this, it can hardly be said to be worth having.

The seat and centre of all earthly happiness ought to be in the home. This sentiment the English thoroughly understand. It inspires them continually. No matter how *blaze* a man may be with them, he does not relinquish his hold upon his home; that is a sentiment of which he is not ashamed. Not so the Frenchman. All his domestic enjoyment he takes in public. For him is the *cafe*. He frequents the theatres, the gardens, the boulevards. His life is nothing, except while in the public eye. He exists for effect. But what a contrast! How widely the Frenchman and the Englishman differ. The more domestic man certainly possesses more and truer virtues. He is a better citizen. He works better, and works well, also. The influence of the calm, sweet pure domestic life over his spirit does not merely tame him and tone him down—it fills him full with purer purposes, develops his moral sentiment, civilizes the barbarism that lurks in him by nature, and fits him exactly for those delicate and humane offices which belong to the very existence of modern society. Our men and women need not be afraid of becoming too domestic—of loving home and its influences too much; the danger is, that they may drift very much too far the other way.

HIRING A GIRL.

Some at least, of our housekeeping readers will enjoy the following, which we find in the *Hartford Homestead*: A lady who wished to hire "a maid of all work," was called into the parlor to see an applicant.

Biddy, (seated on the sofa.)—"I hear yez want a girl.

Lady.—"Yes."

Biddy.—Have yez hot and cold wather carried convaneyantly all over the house?"

Lady, (still standing.)—"Yes."

Biddy.—"Is there gas in the kitchen?"

Lady.—"Yes."

Biddy.—"Carpets on the girl's room?"

Lady.—"Yes."

Biddy.—"Do you have a man to make the fires, and black shoes?"

Lady.—"No; the girl makes her own fires."

Biddy.—"That's too bad. But I likes yez and yer house other ways, and the kitchen looks convanient, so I think I'll come. I'll be expecting $9